





THE INDEPENDEN

SATURDAY 4 JANUARY 1997

The names you'll want to watch in

The places you'll want to visit in THE MAGAZINE

WEATHER: Cold with snow

So this is global warming?

Snow conceals hard choices

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

A week ago The Independent reported that 1996 had been one mitment from the developed of the world's warmest years on record, adding to scientists' convictions that man-made climatic change was well under-

Ever since then, across Euторе, it has got colder and colder. In cosy pubs across the country, the lounge bar talk has been: "Whatever happened to global warming?"
It is a tough but fair question.

In a world still prone to spells of extreme cold which kill scores of people and cost hun-dreds of millions of pounds, how can electorates and politicians be convinced that global warm-10 matters?

It has been a front-runner among green issues for nearly a decade. World leaders – Clinton, Kohl, Thatcher, Major have all made solemn speeches declaring that something serve energy, which could, in must be done. But very little has been done. The new politics and diplomacy of weather and climate amount to little more than hot air.

We are curious, awed by the notion that a single species - us - can now alter our planet's entire climate. But in a bitter week of frozen winds from Siberia, it is hard to think of this grand, looming threat as anything other than an apocalyptic fantasy or an irrelevance.

But global warming is hap-

pening, it does matter, and we should take action now to reduce the threat. There is a wide warming trend. golden opportunity to do so later this year. In December, in Japan, environment ministers from around the world will meet in order to strengthen the very weak global warming treaty hich was signed at the Rio

Earth Summit in 1992. Under that treaty, developed countries undertook to stabilise their rising annual emissions of beat-trapping 'greenhouse gases at the 1990 level by the year 2000. Most of them - but not Britain - seem set to break that

What is now required at the countries - which have produced the great bulk of the atmospheric pollution to date to reduce their emissions. That means using less coal, oil and gas. Burning these fossil fuels adds carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

And that, in turn, means increasing taxes on these fuels. But electorates and politicians bate the idea. The debacle over raising VAT on domestic electricity and gas, the griping about increased petrol and diesel duty which inevitably follow each UK Budget, the gutting of the first Clinton administration's energy tax, shows just how much.

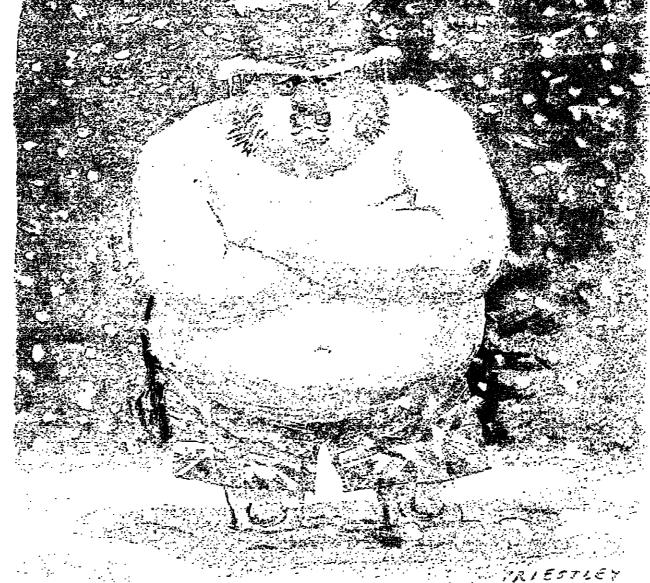
Reducing emissions also requires giving householders, commerce and industry other, more popular incentives to conturn, be funded by those larger fuel and power taxes. The expansion of non-polluting energy sources needs to be intelli gently subsidised.

But back to today's bitter cold. Why should voters and politicians even believe in global warming - let alone make changes to their habits, homes and economies - with fresh memories of freezing weather?

They need to get the message that the climate will retain its natural variability, with continued extremes of hot and cold, drought and flood, against the background of a gradual, world-

As we reported last week, scientists at the Meteorological Office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction have found that average annual world temperaturesare now 0.6C higher

than a century ago.
The science of global warming has made giant strides in the past 10 years. There is now a consensus among climatologists that the warming trend will continue and, in all probabili-



ty, accelerate into the next century. It will be the fastest rate of change since the last Ice Age ended. 10,000 years ago.

There will be cooler years, even cooler decades, which buck the trend, because natural variability will continue. By changing prevailing winds and ocean currents, some countries could even end up colder.

Rich countries like Britain may find it fairly cheap and easy to adapt to whatever climate change we experience here. Some recent studies have sug-gested that the USA, Canada and Russia, which have done

more in total or in per capita terms to raise the concentrations of greenhouse gases than any other nation, may actually benefit from climate change in

the next century. But poor, populous ones, such as Bangladesh, will find the shifts in temperature and rainfall, and the rising sea levels, much harder to cope with and

possibly catastrophic. Common sense and justice demand that the developed countries do act. Short-termism and selfishness make it quite likely that they will not. But they have been warned.



Thaw to bring wave of miserv The deep freeze which has imum daytime temperatures

gripped Britain for more than no higher than 4C. a week will slowly ease over the next few days, the Meteorological Office has forecast. But it will bring a deluge of hurst water pipes and mains in its wake.

Twelve of today's 32 FA Cup third round football matches have been cancelled. The fate of five more depends on pitch nspections due before kick-off. Many rugby games were also cancelled, and horse racing

remains at a complete standstill

today after a week without any meetings.
The London Weather Centre said temperatures would sink to -10C overnight with the Southeast - nearest to the even colder continent - once again the

coldest area. It was warmer vesterday in Greenland than it was in much of Europe. Hundreds have been killed by the cold and in Bonn gravediggers have had to use pneumatic drills to break the frozen earth.

The continents' major rivers have frozen, with the Elbe closed to inland navigation Czech border. Icc is also building in the channel between the North and Baltic seas and the Danube remained closed to traffic from Germany through Austria to Slovakia. Barge traffic was halted in

much of eastern France after parts of the Loire and key canals were scaled with four inches of ice. While the Rhine is still navigable from Rotterdam to Basle, the freeze has hit tributaries and nearby canals.

In Britain, snow showers and Siberian winds from the north and north-east are forecast through the weekend, with max-

(IR 65P) **60**p

A spokesman said: "Some parts of the country are colder than they have been for 15 years. But this is still not in the same class as 1982. Then we were seeing temperatures down as far as -26C in Shropshire."

Frozen water pipes were blamed for an explosion at Easterton near Devizes, Wiltshire, which lifted the roof, blew out a corner and shattered the windows of a bungalow. A gas boiler overheated and blew up. A farrier, Gary Urch, 32. and his partner Anne Newbery, 42, and their two children suffered cuts and severe shock.

The thin-ice accidents which have killed several people over the past few week have been ignored by some parents. Their children carried on riding mountain bikes and walking on frozen ponds and lakes.

The Department of Social Se-curity said it had paid out £27m in cold weather handouts to more than a million vulnerable pensioners and families reliant on state benefits. This is the second nighest amount paid since records began in 1986; last year payments had topped £00m.

spokeswoman Harriet Harman said that Britain suffered the highest number of excess deaths annually in northern Europe associated with the cold.

The freeze has also claimed the annual world pooh-sticks championships, which were postponed until March, the first time this has happened since the event began in 1963. The River Thames is frozen at the venue in Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire.

Europe's big chill, page 10

Yorkshire becomes sex-free zone

David Lister Arts News Editor

Yorkshire and the North-east are set to be a sex-free region. at least as far as independent delevision is concerned.

Tif Yesterday Bruce Gyngell, head of Yorkshire/Tyne Tees TV who can claim to be British television's leading moralist, banned as too smutty a series on showbiz love-lives which is 10 be shown in every other ITV region next week. It is the latest in a series of bans by Mr Gvngell, the 67-year-old Australian who used to run TV-am and became a favourite of Margaret Thatcher after he took on the broadcasting unions in a gru-

elling strike in 1988. Increasingly a spokesman against sex on television, Mr Gyngell last year blocked Margi Clarke's Good Sex Guide as well as late-night sex show Carnal Knowledge and the quiz show God's Gift, which involved contestants showing their prowess

at toe sucking. Yesterday it emerged he had refused to schedule the £1m four-part series Hollywood Lovers, due to start next Wednesday. Instead he will be showing the Best of Whicker's World.

Last month Mr Gyngell called for a ban on the film Crash, saying those in control of the entertainment industry had a duty to reinforce family values and stop perverted depic-

At the last conference of the Royal Television Society he warned that British television was sinking into a "mire of sleaze". He pointed to the swear words in the last plays by Dennis Potter and said there should have been a public debate on their suitability before BBC and Channel 4 "rushed to include the delusions of a dying man".

been slow to echo their boss. Next week Tyne Tees starts a new soap about Newcastle yup-ples called Quayside. It will duck explicit sex.

The producers of Hollywood Lovers were less enamoured with the Gyngell creed. At September Films, which made the series, a spokeswoman said: "We hope he will change his mind all the other ITV companies are absolutely happy with it. I think Mr Gyngell's staff have not it is misguided to take it off air."

QUICKLY

Murder hunt

Extra police have been drafted into the squad hunting the killer of the murdered schoolgirl Nicola Dixon to follow up a large numbers of responses after a public appeal for infor-mation. Page 2

Top-flight bargains
The New Year has brought a flurry of travel bargains which has cut many fares to their lowest-ever levels,

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Jenny sleeps in a shop doorway – but not to queue for the sales. She's there because she's homeless. All she wants this winter is to survive - but without help,

Will you help save

Jenny's life tonight?

she may not

Jenny has learned to cope with dirt, hunger and illness - but harsh weather could finish her off. Last winter in London alone, 74 people perished while sleeping rough. You can help Jenny - and hundreds like her - make it through winter. Send £25 to Crisis today. We'll use it to give a vulnerable homeless person food, warmth and shelter at one of our emergency cold weather shelters. £25 is a small price to pay to save a human life. But it could be the most important saving you'll ever make.

Crisis Winter Emergency Yes, I'll keep homeless people warm:

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OR please phone our donation line 0500 10 99 99 Crisis, PO Box 13295, Freepost EDO3791, London E1 IBR



Is this England's most humiliating defeat ever? Bob Willis, the former Eng-What made matters worse Jason Bennetto land fast bowler, added: "Zim-

The England cricket team were laid low yesterday by a chicken farmer from Zimbabwe in what must rank as one of the nation's most humiliating defeats of

Even hardened England supporters, brought up on a diet of dashed hopes, batting collapses, false dawns and failure, watched in disbelief as the team ranked ninth out of nine in the world hammered us 3-0 in a series of one-day matches.

The chief destroyer in the final game vesterday was farmer Eddo Brandes, who took Zimwith them. It was sad and very babwe's first ever hat-trick as disappointing in Zimbabwe -a England crashed to a 131-run

was that the trip to Zimbabwe and the subsequent tour of New Zealand were supposed to be "morale boosters" in preparation for a gruelling summer series against Australia. But yesterday Zimbahwe, who have only 10 professional cricketers, brought England down to earth. Having only drawn the two

Test matches against the

African side, critics lined up vesterday to put the boot into the England team. Former England cricket skip-per Brian Close said: "They want their backsides kicking. I don't know what you can do

going down the cricketing plug-hole here." Although yesterday's defeat was in a one-day game, which are considered inferior to Test matches, memories of recent humiliations flooded back. Who could forget England being bowled out for 82 by New Zealand at the 1984 Test match

babwe are at the bottom of the

ladder and England are quick-

ly replacing them. We are fast

in the 1994 Trinidad Test? Tory MP Terry Dicks said: "They should be brought home in disgrace. I would sack the management and half the team."

in Christchurch, or the 46 all out

at the hands of the West Indies

news

significant shorts

men deny 41 abuse charges

Two members of a Catholic religious order denied 41 charges of sexually abusing young boys when they appeared in court in Northern Ireland yesterday.

Joseph Scally, 61, and Thomas Tierney, 74, pleaded not guilty to the charges when they appeared for arraignment at Downpatrick Crown Court. The two men, members of De La Salle Order, are alleged to have committed the offences between 1961 and 1980, in North Antrim, North Down and West Belfast.

Mr Scally denies eight charges of serious sexual assault and 18 of indecent assault against 10 boys, while Mr Tierney denies eight counts of serious sexual assault and seven of indecent assault against three boys.

McAliskey held for two weeks

Suspected IRA terrorist Roisin McAliskey was yesterday remanded in custody for a further

Ms McAliskey, 25, from Co Tyrone, the pregnant daughter of former MP Bernadette McAliskey, faces extradition to Germany in connection with a mortar attack on British Army barracks in Osnabruck

last June. She was remanded in custody to return to Bow Street Magistrates Court in central London on 16

Prisoner found dead in cell

A prisoner was found dead in his jail cell yesterday. Garry Smith, 38, from Paisley, was found at 7am in Gateside jail, Greenock.

The Scottish Prison Service said the man's next of kin and police have been informed and a fatal accident inquiry will be held into the death. Smith was sentenced to two years and three months at Paisley Sheriff Court in May 1996 for breach of the peace and assault.

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Catholic order Queen to rent out top London property

Estate agents Knight Frank are expecting huge interest in one of London's most prestigious addresses which is to be rented out for the first time.

No 1, Palace Green, a listed building overlooking Kensington Palace, home to the Princess of Wales, has been fully restored by the Crown Estate. The property is divided into six flats, with weekly rents ranging from £500 to £3,000.

A spokeswoman for Knight Frank said: "We are expecting the flats to be snapped up. You can rarely rent or buy anything in that location."

Vicar on trial for adultery

A vicar is to appear before an ecclesiastical court later this month accused of adultery, it emerged yesterday.

The hearing follows claims by Margaret Orpen, a mother of three, that the Rev Edward Glover made her pregnant six months ago while he was serving in the Trimdon area of Co Durham. Mrs Orpen said she had a miscarriage.

Mr Glover, married with two daughters, denies the allegation. He has resigned

on the grounds of stress. The hearing will take place at Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, on 23 January.

Suspect IRA bomb found

Army bomb disposal experts were last night dealing with a suspicious object found in a derelict building in Cullyhanna, south Armagh, close to the Irish border.

Police and troops patrolling the area on Thursday cordoned off the building after noticing electrical wiring around a number of oil cans.

Security forces have been on a high state of alert following recent IRA and loyalist attacks. Earlier this week a 1,000th van bomb was defused after a lengthy operation in north Belfast.

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Extra police brought in to hunt killer of the 'perfect schoolgirl'







Faces of anguish: Police are extending their hunt for the killer of Nicola Dixon (left). In Kilmarnock yesterday, Lisa Barrow (centre), returned home, but Kayleigh Ward is still missing

James Çusick

mation.

Extra police have been drafted into the squad hunting the killer of the murdered schoolgirl Nicola Dixon to follow up a large numbers of responses af-ter a public appeal for infor-

New leads the detectives will now be concentrating on include sightings of the 17-year-old sixth-former before she was sexually assaulted and repeatedly struck on the head as she walked to a pub in Sutton Coldfield town centre in the west Midlands on New Year's Eve. Her body was found face down

in the snow in a rectory garden on New Year's Day. From early examinations, police believe she had tried to protect herself during the horrific assault.

Chief Superintendent Colin Macdonald, in charge of the murder team, said yesterday: "We have had calls from people who were in the area, some who had sightings of the deceased and some who have actually named people they think may be responsible."

He said the priority would now be following up all the response calls over the next 24

Meanwhile in Scotland an-

other schoolgiri who had been and described as looking "hale marnock girl Mhairi Julyan.

missing from her Ayrshire home and hearty" the 15-year-old Strathclyde Police said the since New Year's Eve walked into a police station in Glasgow safe and well.

Lisa Barrow from Kil-marnock left home three days ago after telling her parents that she was going to a local shop for a magazine and a CD. Her disappearance had resulted in a l-scale police hunt. Yesterday her brother, a 22-

year-old soldier who had been serving in the Falkland Islands made a public appeal on behalf of the family for information and for her to come home. Only three hours after the appeal, walked into a police station in Aitkenhead Road in the southside of Glasgow.

The teenager is believed to have spent the past three days with a seller of the Big Issue, the magazine sold for the homeless. She told close friends that the man, believed to be in his early 20s, was her boyfriend.

Her safe return will have brought enormous relief to her Ayrshire hometown which this Christmas was only beginning to come to terms with the abduction and brutal murder last year of the 16-year-old Kil-

teenager would be interviewed by officers in order to establish her movements since Tuesday and check her welfare. Inspector Gordon Mclanaghan, of Kilmarnock police station, said he doubted whether charges

man as "nothing untoward had taken place or anything illegal". "It would have been a very depressing start to the New

Year if we had any other result other than this one," he said. In Cheshire, police were continuing their search for anoth-

er child. Posters are being

would be brought against the

the country for information on the missing nine-year-old, Kayleigh Ward, from Chester. She has been missing since before Christmas. She is said to have vanished after leaving her home to go out and buy chips.

Described as "streetwise" for her age, she lived with her mother and two sisters in a hostel in Chester, but had spent time with travellers and tramps near her home.

Enlisting the help of the National Helpline, Chester Police repeated its call to the public for assistance in tracing the girl.

Major prepares to launch spring offensive

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

John Major will launch the Conservatives' spring offensive next week with his first Down-Street press since June 1995.

His appearance will follow a major television interview and a new poster campaign against Labour, and will mark the start of the run-up to the general

The last time the Prime Minister gave such a press conference, it was to announce that he was resigning and it sparked a and-see" policy on the single campaign for the party leader-

ship. This time, with tension mounting over Europe and with speculation about who may lead his party after the election, the initiative will be de- stance. signed to reassert Mr Major's authority.

However, the Prime Minister's stubbornly pro-European Chancellor appeared increasingly isolated last night as his cabinet colleagues backed calls from the Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, for a renegotiation of Britain's position. Kenneth Clarke had insisted that the Government's "wait-

European currency should not

change before the election, but other ministers appeared to be trying to manoeuvre him into accepting a more Euro-sceptic

Remarks by Mr Dorrell that the European Union should "put the economic horse back in front of the political cart" had been interpreted as a bid for his party's leadership. However, other cabinet ministers appeared to be using the comments in a bid to corner Mr Clarke last night.

While Mr Dorrell did not specifically mention the single currency, backing from the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind,

and the Home Secretary, to telephone Mr Dorrell to Michael Howard, gave heart to check what he was saying, he admitted. "He emphasised that he

on the convergence criteria for Union purely as a free-trade entering a single currency end- area. He recognises ... that it ed with the policy unchanged, but Mr Clarke is due to present another paper on the subject after Parliament returns from its Christmas break on 13 January

Mr Rifkind insisted that Mr Dorrell, hitherto regarded as a moderate on the European Union, had simply been fol-lowing the agreed government line when he called for measures to reverse the drift to a "social Europe". However, he had had

A cabinet meeting last month does not see the European has to be more than a free-trade

area, but must never become a

European state," Mr Rifkind said on Radio 4 vesterday. Later, Mr Howard said that Mr Dorrell had merely emphasised the key difference between the Tories and Labour on Europe. "We have a distinctive, British, Conservative vision of the kind of Europe that we want

to build. He was talking about

precisely that vision," he said.

man Lamont, seized on the opportunity to call for a fundamental rethink of Britain's relationship with the EU. "There is a fundamental in-

The former Chancellor, Nor-

compatibility between Britain's version of the EU and that of almost every other country in the EU. What Britain needs .. is a completely new relationship with the EU," he said.

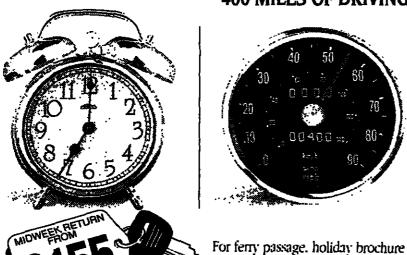
Both major parties will begin the new year with advertising campaigns. Yesterday the Tories sent a 1997 "horrorscope" to electors warning them of dire consequences if Labour came

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Tory MP to quit due to stress

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Barry Field, the backbench Conservative MP who was pre-pared to stand against John Major for his party's leadership in 1995, is to stand down at the general election.

Mr Field, who announced his candidature after Mr Major resigned his position in June but who withdrew when the former Secretary of State for Wales, John Redwood, entered the ring, is suffering from a stress disorder. He is known as a right-winger on law and order issues and is against any low-ering of the age of consent for

homosexuals. The 49 year-old MP for the Isle of Wight, who is also a di-rector of his family's undertaking business, said vesterday that he had been feeling unwell for some time. "I have suffered from stress and memory loss and a loss of feeling in some of my fingers. I had some tests with a consultant neurologist and be confirmed that I had a stress-re-

lated illness," he said.
Mr Field's agent, Maurice
Cook, said both the MP and his constituency association were disappointed by the decision, which he had taken "with great

The search for a successor to Mr Field as the Tory candidate will begin immediately and will be completed by next month. However, the seat is far from safe with a Conservative majority of just 1,800 and an electorate of 100,000. It would be lost to the Liberal Democrats on a swing of 1 per cent.



Under cover: David Jennings leaving Swaleside jail yesterday morning Photograph: PA Release for man who threatened 'a Dunblane'

David Jennings, the inmate who allegedly threatened to "do a Dunblane" was released

from prison yesterday morning. With his face and body cov-cred with a blanket, Mr Jennings was driven at high speed past reporters outside Swaleside prison on the Isle of Sheppey. Kent, in a prison van escorted

Yesterday, the borough coun-cil in Greenwich, south-east London - Mr Jennings' home area - obtained a high court injunction banning him from en-tering any council buildings or schools. The temporary injunction obtained on Thursday also bans him from owning or carrying firearms or interfering with any children, teachers or staff at Greenwich schools.

The council took the action after reports that Mr Jennings, aged 50, had threatened to carry out a Dunblane-style massacre on his release. He is be-lieved to be angry at the way his children have been treated at

school and in care. The father-of-ten made the alleged remarks last month to a chaplain at Highpoint Prison, Suffolk, where he was serving a 30-month sentence for assault He was subsequently transferred to Swaleside.

Mr Jennings' solicitor, James Bancroft, said yesterday that his client admitted saying some-thing similar to the alleged comments but insisted it was not a serious threat. "It was just rub-bish he spouted off the top of his head while unburdening himself to the prison chaplain because the social services had failed to bring his children to see him," he said.

Mr Bancroft said Mr Jennings would strongly contest the injunction at a court hearing on Monday when Greenwich will be seeking a permanent court order. He said the terms of the ban would make it very difficult for Mr Jennings to live an ordinary life in an area where he

had lived for 25 years. Neighbours living near the home of Mr Jennings' second wife, Samantha, said they were deeply concerned about his release after the alleged outburst. Carole Tobin, 30, a mother of three, said: "I'm worried about my children's safety now. I used to let them play outside but now this man has been set free I'm

terrified to let them out."

Another neighbour Irene
Cunningham, 57, said: "It's disgusting that he's been set free after saying the things he did. He shouldn't be allowed out." After his release, Mr Jennings

had been expected to return to bis home in the Eltham area, but by nightfall there was still

Plan for first Halal motorway station

A Pakistani community grou is looking for European fund-ing to set up Britain's first motorway service station serving halal meat and vegetarian

The Birmingham-based Pakistan Welfare Association wants to build the £35m "balti-break" service station on the hub of the West Midlands motorway network which includes the M6, M5, M40 and M42 motorways If approved, work on the

scheme, known as Shalimar 2000, could begin by the end of the year and completed by the

end of the century.

The 600 jobs set to be created would be mainly filled by members of Birmingham's large Muslim population and would be primarily aimed at them.

The idea came to retired

teacher Mohammed Akram Mirza when he could find no service stations that served halai food - meat from animals slaughtered according to Muslim law. Mr Mirza, 60, vicechairman of the welfare association based in Hands worth, Birmingham, said: "Be-ing a Muslim I have to have halal food so it forced me to do

some research."

He is now negotiating with le cal councils over five possible sites and says the scheme would be eligible for an EU grant from the regional development fund.
Birmingham City Council is also being asked to provide £5,000 for a feasibility study into the scheme which would be run by a non-profit making company with proceeds ploughed back into the service station and the local Muslim community.

A dramatic new year holiday war has broken out as British Airways slashes its prices Falling fares are just the ticket for travel Simon Calder Travel Editor The New Year has brought a flurry of travel bargains which has reduced many fares to their

lowest-ever levels in real terms.

Anyone earning the average

British salary, for example, can fly from London to Peking and

back for a week's wages - and still have sufficient change for

a return train ticket to Lille.

Yesterday British Airways

startled the aviation world by in-

troducing a fare from Heathrow

to the Chinese capital of £309 return, including UK tax. The Earnings Information section of

the Office for National Statis-

tics reveals that this is £42 less

than the average adult weekly wage in 1996. The new fare to the People's Republic is the

most generous of the latest tranche of BA's World Offer

tickets, which includes Belfast

or Glasgow to London for £64

return and Birmingham-Paris

one of the more expensive long-haul destinations from the UK. Only BA and Air China, the state airline, serve the 5,000-mile route direct from London.

When BA began flying to Peking in November 1980, its

lowest fare was about double

been sending tourists to the

People's Republic for 21 years

welcomed the airline's move,

and said it could herald a boom

in city-break holidays to the

Chinese capital. Neil Taylor.

managing director of Regent Holidays of Bristol, said: To-

A specialist agent who has

this latest ticket price.

Historically, Peking has been

for £99.

gether with the cheaper hotel rooms that have recently been introduced, it shows that China is now taking tourism seriously. The move could trigger the development of a whole new

short-break market."

Only the hardiest tourist would venture to Peking this month, however, since winters in the capital are harsh and many of the attractions are out-of-doors. BA's fare must be booked by 29 January, but can be used for departures up to 31 March - by which time more benign weather should arrive.

China can be expected to steal a fair amount of eastleaning leisure travel from Russia: BA's lowest fare to St Pesia; BAS lowest rare to 5t re-tersburg, for example, is the same as for Peking, even though the Russian city is far nearer. Looking west, BA is offering a fare of £299 plus £18.40 tax to

Ten bargains to take

ways (0345 225225); £63 return on EasyJet .

Belfast: £64 return on British Airways.

Beijing: £309 on British Airways.

London, and include all pre-payable taxes.

coachcard, price £8 for a year.

Ten new year travel bargains; fares quoted are adult returns from

Any National Express destination in Britain: £9.99, providing

you are over 50 and in possession of a National Express discount

Paris or Amsterdam: £27 for a bus-hovercraft combination on

Edinburgh or Glasgow: £38 return on Great North Eastern Rail-

■ Brussels: £49 for a Eurostar day-trip; £79 on Virgin Express.

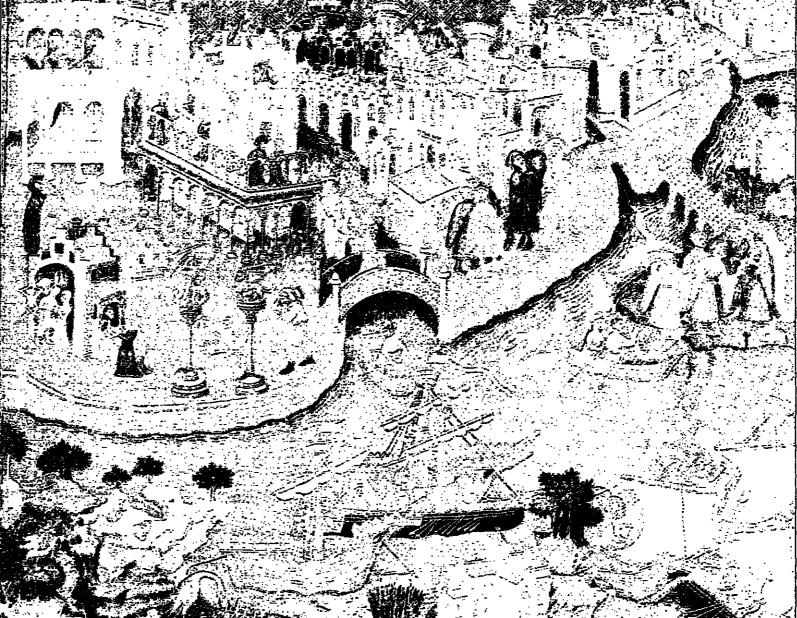
New York: £185 on Continental Airlines, through Trailfinders.

💼 Los Angeles or San Francisco: £307 return on Virgin Atlantic

Sydney: £528 on Britannia Airways on 19 or 26 January through

co. but Virgin Atlantic has inbeen cut too, but competition is so intense that much lower troduced a "Megasaver" fare to either Californian city that unprices are available through dercuts this by £10. discount agents. Previously, only smaller airlines like Kuwait Official fares between Lon-Airways and El Al offered fares

don and New York, the busiest international air route, have Los Angeles and San Francis-



Long haul: Marco Polo leaving Venice by royal barge on the first leg of his journey, as recorded in The Romance of Alexander Photograph: ET Archive

One organisation is bucking

with a Calais special of £29 re-turn and Brussels for £49. In competition, Virgin Express is charging £79 for flights from Heathrow to the Belgian capital. The coach operators, such as Hoverspeed, have been forced to offer fares at 1970s levbelow £200 on the route, but els in order to autract custom for their much slower services; Hoverspeed is charging £27 re-

turn to Paris or Amsterdam. Perhaps the fiercest fares battle, though, is taking place within Britain. From Monday, National Express is offering a return fare of £9.99 on any route for travellers aged 50 or over. In retaliation against cheap

coach fares - and discount airlines such as EasyJet - Great North Eastern Railways has cut its one-way fares from Edinburgh. Glasgow and Stirling to London to £19. The airlines have reacted, with BA dropping its lowest return fare between

Glasgow and London to £64.

the trend for low fares, however. From tomorrow, the minimum tube fare within the central area of the London Underground rises by nine per cent to £1.20 - the most expensive urban public transport in the world.

■The Long Weekend features a London travel special on pages 11-13, while today's Independent Magazine includes an alphabetical journey around the world.

Centuries too late for Marco Polo

Sam Coates

British Airways' most dramatic new price of £309 for the 5.000-mile trip to Beijing, tak-ing under 10 hours. is in stark contrast to the cost and hardhip facing earlier travellers. In 1271, for instance, it took Marco Polo two years to trek across Eastern Europe and Asia, accompanied by his father and unele. The trip would have cost him many thousands of pounds at today's prices.

They started their journey from Venice in regal luxury, in a fast galley provided by the Christian king of Armenia. Pampered by the royal servants on board, no doubt BA's stewards would find it difficult to

match the same level of service. But after the extravagance of the first leg of the journey, life became a tougher. There were none of the benefits of business class for the merchants, for whom this was a working journey. In the absence of in-flight catering, they had to get food by trading goods for basic es-sentials like food and camels.

And if this was not enough, they had to overcome a number of physical obstacles: in their path were the Hindu Kush mountains in Afghanistan and the Gobi Desert. They spent 30 days crossing the trackless wastes of the Gobi where, Polo writes, he only just managed to resist the fatal lure of the sirens.

The latest Hollywood blockbuster is the main entertainment available at 30,000 feet. However Polo's trip was filled with a vast array of bizarre encounters which he recorded in his Description of the World. While crossing the Gobi, he wrote that they encountered a group of women who had no hair except on the top of their heads.

Parents' plea over drugs

Crime Correspondent

The parents of one of the three young people who died during new year parties, apparently after taking eestasy tablets, yesterday made an emotional appeal for other teenagers to re-

Maria Hitchens, whose son Robert, 16, collapsed at 6.30am on New Year's Day at an allnight rave party in Heston, west London, said: "I have lost my son. I will never see him again. Please take note of what has happened and never take this stuff again." Robert, from Upminster, Es-

sex, who is thought to have tak-en ecstasy, was taken to hospital where he died hours later. A post-mortem examination yesterday was inconclusive.

As in the other recent cases it is still unclear whether impu-3 rities and other substances such

sponsible for the deaths, or if the

pure drug caused a fatal reaction. Speaking at a news conference, Robert's father John described his son, a trainee computer engineer, as a "wonderful" young man.

"I couldn't wish for a better son, an absolute treasure. He was lively, comical, a cheeky little monkey. He had a bright future in front of him, he had just left school after he got some good results." He appealed to other parents

children's activities. that he will never come back. Please, look at your children,

ask them questions, don't take no for an answer.

to keep a watchful eye on their "I know he's gone, he's dead,

He added: "You can't explain to people the loss of a child. You expect your parents to die eventually, you're not ready for it,

tablets could have been re- but you expect your children to New Year's Eve, arriving there

Both parents said they were unaware of their son taking

Asked how Robert's 19-yearold brother Matthew, who was at the fatal party, had taken the death, Mr Hitcheus said: "Matthew has taken it very badly, he's trying to cope with it, but he's lost his brother, and they were very close boys."

Detective inspector Sue Hill,

the officer in charge of the investigation, said until they had the results of toxicology tests they could not be sure that Robert had taken ecstasy.

Asked what was being done to find whoever had supplied the tablets, she said: "I have got a number of officers actively pursuing that line of inquiry, to catch the supplier of these

drugs."
She said Robert had gone to

some time after midnight with

Continental Airlines is selling a

£185 ticket on its daily Gatwick-

Newark services, through the discount specialists Trailfinders.

a spin-off of the buoyant mar-ket for business travel. Though

airlines decline to give precise load-factors for first and busi-

ness cabins, premium seats are selling well and providing high

yields. Therefore carriers are

prepared to sell off economy

Fares are also tumbling on

planes and trains within Europe.

Following the fire in the Chan-

nel Tunnel last November, Eu-

rostar is seeking to boost travel

with a range of day-trip fares

from Waterloo International to France and Belgium starting

ace at almost any price.

These low long-haul fares are

his brother and a friend. Det Insp Hill said it was unlikely Robert bought the tablets at the party and may have got

them in his home area. "There were 35 security guards on duty that night, who were searching these young kids when going into the centre." But she warned that young-

sters can take tablets before they arrived somewhere, or conceal them on their body. "If you take ecstasy, you're playing Russian roulette with your life," the detective added.

His death follows that of Bilal Hussein Bhayat, 18, at a New Year rave in Cardiff, and Nicola Edwards, 24, from Middles-brough, who died in police custody after being detained on her way to a party near Edinburgh. Both are thought to have died after taking ecstasy.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

What's he up to now? **Read Andrew Marr's**

exclusive interview and get an original David **Hockney NewsPrint** with every copy of Tuesday's Independent Tabloid



Shephard prepares for battle of the basics

Education Correspondent

The Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Gillian Shephard, yesterday signalled a new campaign to raise standards of literacy and numeracy, paving the way for a pre-election battle of the basics with Labour.

Mrs Shephard's announcement, at the North of England Labour, which is due to publish its own proposals for a literacy

campaign within weeks. Her address, conspicuously lacking electioneering fire, is due to be followed today by a forceful assault on the Conservatives' education agenda by Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett.

Mr Blunkett will blame a skills shortfall on 17 years of Tory rule and warn of a string

of dangers lying ahead if the Conservatives win a fifth term conference that schools, colleges and local authorities had made in Government. A further term in power would mean "five more years of dogma driving education policy, instead of clear practical policies to raise standards", he will say.

Mrs Shephard placed new emphasis on the three Rs. just a year after announcing plans for literacy and numeracy centres in 27 local authorities to tackle the same problem. She told the

and even doubted the suitabil-ity of graduates. School-leavers with poor literacy and numer-acy faced a bleak future, exgreat strides in boosting basic skills, but acknowledged a lack cluded from a life of learning of co-ordination among the agencies engaged in the "battle and many job opportunities. Later this month, Mrs Shep-

hard will announce proposals to A "small but significant minority" of young people were still leaving education with involve every education and training agency in a national campaign to boost basic skills inadequate standards of literastandards. Key players will in-clude schools, further and highcy and numeracy. Employers had "widespread concerns" er education institutions, the about job applicants' basic skills,

schools inspection agency Of-sted, teacher-trainers, local authorities and employers.

Mrs Shephard said: Through ... clearer target-setting and better co-ordination, I am convinced we can bring about greater and more telling involvement and more effective help to those who need it."

Labour will next month publish details of its strategy, developed by the party's lite. task force, to ensure the read-

"We cannot tolerate 40 per cent of our primary school children not reaching an acceptable standard when they transfer to comprehensive school. We cannot have over a third of our children two or more years behind in their reading ability.

He will claim that a fifth term of Conservative rule would mean selection in primary

ing age of all 11-year-olds matches their years.

Mr Blunkett will say today:

"The section of schools and to the parental choice, and to the privatisation of schools via a voucher system. A new funding formula for schools would be introduced, cutting over £600m from existing spending, leading more parents to have to raise funds themselves to pay for books and materials, he will say.

Mr Blunkett will also announce Labour proposals to use lottery funds to train teachers in computer skills.

Scotch rocks market with whisky galore on the box

Glenda Cooper

Computer-generated grouse walk across our television screens. A man drinks whisky to celebrate going surfing in Australia. Spirits advertising, never seen on television before 1995, is here with a vengeance.

Last year the industry spent £10m on television advertising alone. Christmas and the New Year were a crucial time for

United Distillers, producer of Bell's whisky, is said to have spent £2.3m on Bell's and Gordon's gin this Christmas. Glenmorangie, the top-selling single malt in Scotland, is estimated to have spent £600,000 on a mixture of television and other advertising, including a relaunched Internet site.

The drive appears to be paying off according to latest figures. For the nine months up to September Scotch whisky sales reached 18.9 million litres. The corresponding figure for the year before was 17.1 million. Alan Gray, whisky analyst for the stockbrokers Sutherlands, estimates that 33 million litres were sold by the end of 1996. Much of this was undoubt-

edly due to the Chancellor's decision to cut duty on spirits by 4 per cent in each of the past two years. However, whisky manufacturers are aware they cannot rely on kindly budgets alone to boost their sales.

Research by the Glasgow-based Fraser of Allander Institute for Allied Distillers reveals the Chancellor would need to cut duty on whisky by 4 per cent a year for 13 years before the



Flowing profits: A Bell's whisky advertisement

burden of tax on spirits equalled that on wine and beer.

Television advertising was something that was "long overdue", according to Alan Gray, a whisky analyst for the stockbroking firm Sutherlands.

By shunning television for more than 40 years, partly because of a "gentleman's agreement" in the industry and partly because exports in the 1960s and 1970s were so healthy, "it has been said Scotch whisky missed

a generation, and I agree with

that," Mr Gray said. In past decades, exports to southern Europe grew by as much as 9 per cent a year, so distillers were able to put up with static sales in Britain, which accounts for 10 per cent of the Scotch whisky market. But when exports slowed down, tales of "Scotch on the rocks"

became more common.

In tandem with the two suc-cessive budget cuts, the first for 100 years, the spirits industry is beginning to move away from its "old man" image in order to lure young drinkers from de-

signer beers, wine and alcopops. This was the second Christmas the industry used televi-sion," Mr Gray said. "It was long overdue. It seems they were very silly not to do it before. Television is the medium young peo-

ple identify with." Andy Neal, consumer marketing director for United Distillers, said the advertising has been planned to attract a wider audience without alienating the traditional older whisky drinker. The Bell's advert is a leaving do, featuring a thirty-something male leaving his firm to go surfing in Australia. It is complete with a coy reference to an office affair with "Amanda" and the catchline, "The time is

right".
"Whisky has been around for 500 years. It is going to take years to change the way people think. We are working on a five-year programme." Mr Neal

"Notwithstanding that when we started advertising in Scotland and the North-west our share of the whisky market there went up 1 or 2 per cent, which is quite significant. And we are confident [after] this Christmas that nationally we will

have our best performance." Campbell Evans, spokesman for the Scotch Whisky Association said the industry had taken a "major step forward" this year. "But it is only the first step in a long-term programme."



Art for art's sake: Sean Fall, of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, unwraps *La Place Clichy b*y Renoir, at Christie's, London, in preparation for the Treasures for Everyone exhibition which opens on Monday. The masterpiece is one of 150 works, acquired through the National Art Collections Fund, which will be on show Photograph: Tom Pilston

UP TO THOMSON holidays

Today we suggest that you look in the new editions of our Summer '97 brochures.' There are Earlybird Savings of up to £100 per couple off the brochure prices on thousands and thousands of holidays. And what's more you can save an extra 10% if you book through the following travel agents:

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They'll be able to show you how with a combination of these savings, you can save as much as 25% off your holiday. Naturally the best deals will disappear fast. So hurry if you want to keep your bank balance in shape.

The best figure for Summer'97

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Party for the single minded

Political Correspondent

Labour's claim to be the party of family values was beginning to wear thin yesterday as it emerged that its new crop of parliamentary candidates is less ikely to be married or to have children than existing MPs.

As the Prime Minister made a bid to win back the family vote for the Tories, an analysis of Labour's likely MPs after the election showed that marriage and children were not at the top of their list of priorities.

If Labour wins the election with a working majority, less than two-thirds of its new male MPs will be married, compared with more than three-quarters at present. However, Labour men are still more likely to be married than the rest of the adult population, where the proportion is six out of 10.

Labour women, on the other hand, are far less likely to be married. Only half the party's female MPs are currently married. Only a quarter of existing women MPs and a fifth married with children.

Very few of the new candidates, either male or female, admitted to being divorced or separated although about a quarter did not fill in the family section of the questionnaire on which the New Labour Guide is based. While 8 per cent of male Labour MPs and 19 per cent of female MPs are divorced. only 2 per cent of men and 5 per cent of women candidates were

willing to reveal this information. The guide, compiled by DPR publishing, was published as the Prime Minister launched a new offensive on family values. In 1996 speeches entitled Our Nation's Future. John Major says the family, as well as the nation, is essential to every individual's

In an attempt to put distance between the Tories and Labour, he attacked "the incursions of the faceless state" into relations between parents and their children, and said families should be given more freedom to make

Intelligent tags to fix the future

Science Editor

The cost of items such as washing machines, televisions and computers could be pushed up in the next century by "intelligent tags", which will be able to detect whether they need re-pairs and allow them to be given new functions without

being touched. The tags are tiny computer chips which can also have a built-in radio transmitter and receiver, meaning that they can send and receive data from a distance. A faulty washing machine could diagnose its prob-lem and broadcast it to a repairer, shortening the time needed to fix it. Software with extra programmes - such as a new way to wash woollens or coloured clothes - could also be oaded into such a machine, us-

ing the radio connection. In the UK, 26 retail organisations are studying the poten-tial of such tags. Though they currently cost about £20, simpler versions with a minimum of detail could cost less than £1.

A simpler form of the tags are already used by the US military and large corporations for ware-housing and stocktaking sys-tems. The US military realised it needed such tags during the Gulf War when it sent a large amount of military equipment in hundreds of shipping containers

to a store in the desert.

"They were all in a huge open field. But then someone said, 'Let's have the parts for that tank'. The trouble was, they knew the parts were there somewhere, but they didn't know where," said Jeremy Holland, business analyst at the Centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology, who has just completed a report on the topic for the Department of Trade and Industry. "They reckoned that \$3.5hn was wasted as a result." Retailers such as Ikea and

Dixons, electronics giant Philips and whisky distillers are keen to use such tags in their ware-houses. Putting a £20 tag on to a pallet of whisky or TVs doesn't add much to their overall cost, but it can save a lot of

Richard Edmonds

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Labour's rank and file swells to 400,000

John Rentoul

Labour's announcement yes-terday that its membership had topped 400,000 was hailed by its deputy leader. John Prescott, as evidence that the party was the biggest in Britain and the fastest growing in western Енгоре".

But party critics warned of a "massive but passive" membership being used as a fan club for a leadership increasingly tightening control of a cen-

tralised machine. Labour leaders have spoiled their achievement by overclaiming, but the 54 per cent increase in the 30 months since Tony Blair became leader in July 1994 is a marked turn-round at a time when many assumed that the age of the mass political par-

ty was long past. Mark Seddon, editor of the left-wing Tribune newspaper. compared the party's new recruits to members of the National Trust. "The upsurge has been in all those places where people are more likely to respond to demands for money from the national party," he said, rather than contributing to



Old and new: Membership reflects a sea-change away from the activism of the Sixties (left) to a more 'passive', affluent constituency, celebrated by John Prescott (right)

more active local parties. He this week, to abolish con-tance: "I just don't think it's go-treat these numbers with a desaid an increasingly middle-class, inactive membership was part of the leadership's plans, revealed in The Independent

and to end the policy-making role of party conferences.

stituency-wide party committees ing to happen. The constituencies won't have it," he said. "I'm

gree of scepticism." He compared the Blair boom

ole of party conferences.

delighted the membership is to the heyday of CND and the bership had lapsed when they bership had lapsed when they growing, but you have got to launch of the SDP, whose mass became disillusioned, but whose

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recruits failed to last. He added that there was plenty of evidence of people whose mem-

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names had continued to appear on membership lists. A Liberal Democrat

spokesman also cast doubt on the methods Labour used to achieve an 85 per cent retention rate. He said Terry Marsh, the former boxer and Lib-Dem candidate in Basildon, whose Labour membership lapsed two years ago, received a ballot paper for October's vote on

Labour's early manifesto. Conservative Central Office estimates there are 750,000 members of its autonomous local associations.

"While we accept that we have lost some members since then, we believe that overall we have gained substantial numbers as well," the party said in a statement yesterday.

Mr Prescott poured scorn on the figure, citing independent estimates as low as 300,000 as the basis of Labour's claim to have overtaken the Tories. "I challenge them to produce a list of every single member of the Tory party," he said, and threw down the same gauntlet to the Liberal Democrats, who have claimed about 100,000 members for the past four years.

Mr Prescott launched Labour's recruitment effort at her son to a selective grammar the end of his first party conference as deputy leader, in October 1994.

get of 500,000 by the end of 1997 which represents a minor slippage from the deadline of the general election which he set

tion is: are the new members New Labour?

analysis of its members who

But the big unanswered ques-

The party last year carried out repentant "modernisers".

pay the full £16-a-year subscription, which revealed that they were more middle-class than the average Tory member, but did not reveal anything

about their politics. The last academic study of members' attitudes, by Professor Patrick Seyd of Sheffield University, was carried out when John Smith was leader in 1992. Professor Seyd admits the lack of data is frustrating: "Mr Blair obviously thinks they are malleable credit card payers, whereas the Left thinks they are crypto-SDP-ers. We simply

don't know." The Independent conducted its own mini-survey of 50 new members in the Brighton Pavilion constituency in September. 1995, which suggested that their attitudes were similar to those of existing members. Many new joiners were lapsed members or long-time supporters.

Last October's ballot for the national executive is the most recent indicator, and it suggested there might be a shift in favour of more "Blairite" candidates. The poll was overshadowed by the drama of whether Harriet Harman would hold her place despite sending school - she did, comfortably,

which was itself significant. The poll also saw another rise Yesterday, he set a new tar- in the votes for left-wingers Diane Abbott and Dennis Skinner. both up 9,000, but bigger rises for Robin Cook (24,000), David Blunkert (18,000), Mo Mowlam (15,000) and Gordon Brown (14,000). The first two are regarded as "soft Left", but Ms Mowlam and Mr Brown are un-



Who belongs to which party?

■ Average age of Labour members: 42

■ Average age of Tory members: 62 ■ One-third of Labour members who pay full subscriptions

have annual household incomes over £30,000 Only one quarter of Tory members have annual household incomes over £30,000

■ Of full-fee Labour members, 86 per cent are home-owners
■ The Tories claim 750,000 members, but independent estimates put the figure between 300,000 and 500,000

The Liberal Democrats claim around 100,000 members
The German Bonoial Democrats have 800,000 members

■ The Swedish Social Democrats have 260,000, equivalent to 1.7m for a country the same size as the UK

The French Socialist Party has only 135,000 members

■ Labour claims an 85 per cent retention rate, with twice as many members joining as leaving ■ There are two women for every three Labour men
■ Tory membership peaked at 2.75m in the 1950s

■ Labour membership peaked at 1m in the 1950s

Millennium plans lose £3m funding

The Millennium Commission has withdrawn funding from two projects – the first to be refused n such a way - because they have failed to meet the necessary conditions, it emerged

yesterday.
The £5m Millennium Markers scheme to attract more Hampton Court tourists to the River Thames has been halted, as has a £1.4m plan to build a railway linking two popular tourist sites in Northern Ireland.

A spokesman for the Millennium Commission said it could not give the £2.75m allocated to the Markers scheme because it was judged unviable.

Plans to build a tourist railway between the Giant's Causeway and the Bushmills whiskey distillery has foundered because

together were pledged £3.45m of lottery money by the Commission, are the first to have funding withdrawn.

The riverside scheme would have seen 10 markers and visitor centres placed along the Thames from Kew Gardens to The spokesman said: "The

Commission is spending public money and has to be sure a project is going to happen. That's why we allocate the money and sign legal documents to make sure that the money has been

In Northern Ireland, the spent wisely." railway proposal could not proceed because land needed for the project could not be

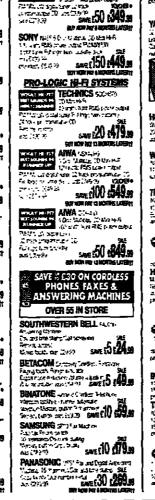
The spokesman said money of land acquisition problems.
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Striking a note for women at St Paul's

The Aurora Nova choir

rehearsing in the stalls at St Paul's Cathedral, London. The first all-female choice to sing in the cathedral. Aurora Nova will perform at two services tomorrow; Sung Eucharist at 11am and Evensong at 3.15pm. The choristers will also be singing tonight in a programme called Ave Maria, which will include Britten's Ceremony of Carols. The performance at Hampstead Parish Church north London, starts at 7.30pm and is in support of Breakthrough and other charities which help women who suffer from domestic violence and breast cancer. They will be directed by Patrick Craig. Tickets, priced £6, are available on Photograph: David Rose

Low-paid jobs keep poor in poverty

David Walker

The notion that the poor can pull themselves up by the boot-straps by taking available paid work is challenged in a study of life on a low income.

Though it avoids the word "underclass", the study - published by the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics - families with adult children finds there is a large group of where everyone is unemployed cople which moves in and out ind it exceedingly direct of jobs but remains in poverty. shake off poverty, says the

Jobs, Wages and Poverty iden-study. tifies a social group, in author Paul Gregg's words, "constantly cycling between low-paid employment and worklessness".

The problem is not that these people do not want to work, but that the kind of jobs they find - often seasonal, part-time, or casual - are, by their nature, short-term, and those employed in this way will soon become un-

employed again.
A "snapshot" of numbers in employment - often used by government ministers to bolster claims of economic recovery often overstates the extent to which jobs last.

Even if more people are in employment, says the study, it does not necessarily follow that they are able to move up the income scale.

"The first rung on the jobs ladder is often extraordinarily slippery," says Mr Gregg. Over the course of a year, about half of those with the lowest incomes those in the lowest 10 per cent income bracket - moved up in terms of their incomes. But they did not move far and were in constant danger of falling off

beaten up in his cell by prison

officers, an inquest jury was told

Peter Smith, who was in the

cell next door at Belmarsh

Prison, in Woolwich, south-

east London, claimed the thuds

of their kicks landing on

Kenneth Severin's body were

"He kept on shouting call the police, call the police. Gradu-

ally his voice got lower and low-

er, fading away then his voice stopped, he told the hearing.

his cell door a short while lat-

er he saw several officers drag-

ging Mr Severin, 25 - who had a history of schizophrenia -

Next morning he learned

that Mr Severin was dead. He

was the third black man to die

in prison between October and

Southwark Coroners Court

down the corridor.

Looking through the hatch in

yesterday.

clearly audible.

Prisoner died

'after beating by officers'

An inmate died after being remanded for trying to break beaten up in his cell by prison into a former girifriend's home.

find it easier to move off benefits and to advance up the jobs ladder. In a similar position are those who have been out of work or in a badly paid job for only a short while. Men and women whose partners have a job find it considerably easier to move back into permanent employment. Single mothers and

Government policy has recently put more emphasis on moving people out of dependence on social security and into jobs. Last autumn, income support for the unemployed was replaced by the Job Seekers' Allowance and pilot schemes have been launched which require benefits claimants to take

Mr Gregg's report claims it is not enough to get people into jobs which may not last. Government should concern itself with the second, or even third job that might be offered to a

previously unemployed person.
"Employment offices should perhaps even start to think in terms of 'career management'. to ensure there are incentives to keep the low-paid moving up the income ladder," he says. Research by the Policy Studies Institute calls into question many calculations made in assessing social security benefits. Many couples live as cheaply as one person, a study found. But the cost of children, especially younger children, is often greater than allowed for in calculations for income support.

In the early hours of 26

November, he was moved to a

strip cell in the jail's hospital

wing for allegedly being dis-ruptive, and he later collapsed.

duty, said that despite being

handcuffed Mr Severin strug-

gled so violently in the strip cell

that it took six officers to con-

trol him. His family was origi-

nally told his death was

drug-related but later learned

Mr Smith said he first realised

something was wrong when he

heard Mr Severin shouting and

banging his chair. This went on for a long time. he recalled.

Other prisoners were getting

annoyed with the noise he was

making and told him to shut

Mr Smith told the jury that

two prison officers then walked

up to Mr Severin's cell but left

to get some colleagues in order to "fix this guy". The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

he had been restrained.

Donna Ward, a nurse on

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unemployed. from Greenwich, south-east London, had been

November 1995. heard that Mr Severin, who was

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Islanders angry as Britain gets tough

A British initiative aimed at tightening control over Caribbean dependencies has brought an angry response from Anguilla, a tiny island in the Leewards.

Its Prime Minister Hubert Hughes accused the Government of trying to force the five remaining dependencies into independence by removing the powers of local officials.

There has been no discussion of this with me or with the Government of Anguilla," Mr Hughes said yesterday. The Government was making the same mistakes that it had made in other colonial possessions, and would antagonise the local population, he added.

They have come straight at last and they are saying ... You have one option, independence or serfdom'," he said in a letter which was circulated throughout the island.

His comments were in response to a letter the British Government sent its five Caribbean territories - Anguilla, Montserrat, the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos islands, and the British Virgin Islands - spelling out their relationship with Britain.

In response to a parliamentary question, Nicholas Bonsor, a foreign office minister, confirmed last month that the Government was resurrecting the threat of using reserve powers in the Caribbean. This means that the governors of the territories - with the agreement of the Foreign Secretary - could amend, veto or introduce legislation over the heads of the islands' existing legislators.

The aim is to bring the fi-nancial legislation of the islands into line with practices in Britain. There have been repeated warnings over the

money laundering in the islands. MI5's former top law official, David Bickford, warned a corruption conference in Cambridge that more than \$1 trillion was "generated by organised crime and laundered through offshore centres using secrecy

Mr Hughes said that the real agenda was to "blackmail" the territories into independence. A section of the letter said that continued dependence relied on an extension of the reserve powers. He denied that money laundering was a factor, saying that Anguilla's legislation was the most modern and open in the region.

There has been increasing tension between Caribbean governors, who are appointed by the Queen, and the island populations.

Last year, the governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Martin Bourke, whom locals called an "arrogant autocrat", came under fire and some islanders asked for him to be replaced. They complained when he appeared to say the police were corrupt and the territory was a haven for drug traffickers.

When Alan Shave, the outgoing governor of Anguilla left last October, he spoke in a farewell radio broadcast of his "often thankless and con-frontational task". His term had been marked by friction with the local government. Britain's last serious tussle

with Anguilla was in 1969, when islanders revolted over persistent attempts to integrate them with the neighbouring islands of St Kitts and Nevis. Army and police reinforcements were drafted in, and when St Kitts and Nevis became independent, Anguilla remained as a dependent. Since then there have been frequent clashes over the degree of autonomy accorded to the local administration.



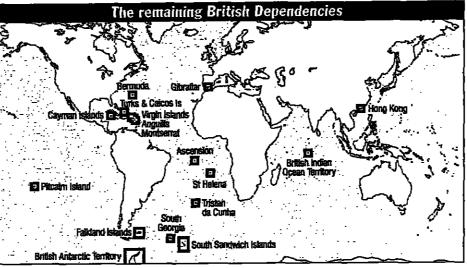
paratroopers in Anguilla in 1969 (Popperfoto) and, right, the image of authority - in this case Lord Waddington, former Governor of Bermuda

All that's left of the world's greatest empire

Andrew Marshall

Once of enormous strategic importance, the remaining British dependencies are now just dots on the map. When Hong Kong goes, Bermuda will be the largest. Almost all were wrested from

the Spanish in the 18th century. But Gibraltar is no longer the key to the Mediterranean. The Caribbean's military relevance declined with the end of rivalry between Spain, France and Britain over the Americas. The South Atlantic routes around Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope no longer require naval coaling stations. Pitcairn Island never had much significance beyond its role in the saga of HMS Bounty. Only Diego Garcia and Ascension Island still function as major military installation – for the US. CARIBBEAN



was settled by the British in the 17th century. BVL Population: 13,000. Dis-

covered by Columbus in 1493, Anguilla. Population: 7,000. the Virgin Islands were taken over in 1666 by the British.

Caymans. Population: 26,000. 1593, the islands were colonised Discovered by Colombus in 1503, the islands were recognised as British in 1670. Montserrat. Population: 12,000. cause of fears that the island's

by the British in the 17th century. Its 40 square miles were in the news last year be-Discovered by Colombus in volcano would erupt.

13,000. Part of the great colonial tussle over the Caribbean; Britain, France and Spain finally settled the title to the islands in 1766 when Britain established a resident Agent.
SOUTH ATLANTIC British Antarctic Territory. Population: About 300. Established in 1962 as a result of the Antarc-

Turks and Caicos. Population:

tic treaty, its 660,000 square miles are inhabited only by scientists and logistical staff. Falklands. Population: 2,000. Discovered by either the British, French or Spanish (depending on whose version you believe), the islands were disputed by Britain and Spain, until Britain expelled the Argent-inian-governed settlers in 1832. War returned 150 years later. St Helena and Dependencies. Population; 5,000. Used as a depot for food and water by the East India Company from 1659, it became a colony in

land and Tristan da Cunha. South Georgia and South Sandwich. Population: 0. Captain James Cook took possession in 1775. A whaling station and scientific base until its starring role in the 1982 Falklands War. OTHER

Bermuda. Population: 59,000. Discovered by the Spaniards in the 16th century, the British settled the islands in 1609. Gibraltar. Population: 30,000. Admiral Sir George Rooke took the Rock from Spain in 1704, and it was ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Sovereignty continues to be disputed by Spain. Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno islands. Population: 50. Discovered by Carteret in 1767.

Pitcairn was settled by muti-neers from HMS Bounty. British Indian Ocean Territory. Population: 0. The mysterious Diego Garcia is now home to a huge American naval base 1834. With it go Ascension Is- and air facilities.

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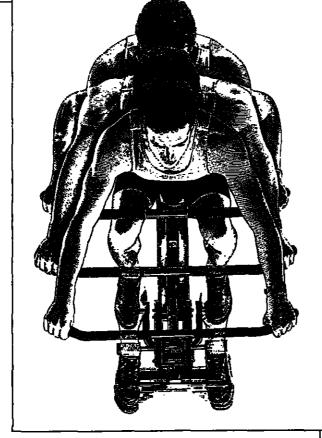
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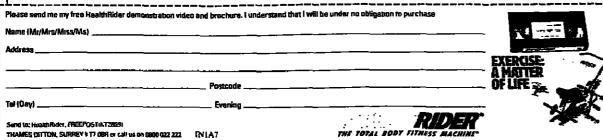
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Hostage dog breaks siege monotony

Phil Davison

For guerrillas, hostages, police, troops and the media, the Lima siege has become a patient waiting game, interrupted spo-radically by a burst of news, and the release of unshaven VIP hostages carrying their dirty shirts and underwear in plastic bags.

A block away from the besieged Japanese ambassador's residence, a couple of hundred television cameras and telephoto lenses are trained on the building night and day from every available vantage point.

At night, the cameras' owners drowse in sleeping bags on Tomas Edison Street, beneath their tripods or aluminium ladders. The arrival of the International Red Cross delegate, Michel Minnig, rouses them. The appearance of a bus means a hostage release is imminent.

On Thursday, it was the story of the "hostage dog" that broke the monotony. Emma, one of two German

Shepherds belonging to the captive Japanese ambassador Morihisa Aoki, was led to safety by a Red Cross worker. She had been found ragged and hungry among rubbish bags after finding her way to the building's front door. Emma had lost her companion, another German Shepherd, at the start of the drama on 17 December when he was hit by a stray bullet as guerrillas from the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) stormed a diplomatic cocktail party.

A cat with whom the dogs used to play was later blown to pieces when it stepped on a grenade hidden by the guerrillas as part of their defences against

a military raid. The media are camped behind two police cordons, each about 80 yards from the diplomatic compound. One group of cameramen and photographers is inside the police lines, refusing to leave the roof of a twostorey villa 50 yards from the besieged building. Colleagues MRTA ...

pass them food using a long rope pulley.

Most of the television images you see come from there. Others come from a higher angle, the roof of a high-rise apartment block where the networks, including ITN, are paying \$1.500 (£900) a week for a position. There, and on the ground,

walkie-talkies crackle endlessly as news crews communicate and move their people around. Some have erected tents or tarpaulins amid a spaghetti of television cable. Others use mini-vans, with cameras or satellite dishes balanced on their roofs. One local television crew still has a nicely decorated Christmas tree outside its van. Banks of telephones have been set up, some of them on mobile trailers, giving phone-card vendors a brisk trade.

Portable green lavatory cubicles are shared by journalists, police, firemen and the curious tourists who come by to have their pictures taken against the wall of newspeople. After the ruins of Machupicchu, this has become perhaps Peru's

favourite tourist attraction. Fire vehicles, ambulances and the lorries of police bombdisposal experts are parked in nearby streets, and 1,000 or so heavily armed police and soldiers in flak jackets stand by. But there is no sign of the armoured vehicles which would probably be needed for an

Peruvians, many housed in mock-Tudor villas, are still living in their homes within sight of the Japanese residence. They would presumably have to be evacuated if any raid were imminent. To relieve the horedom, journalists exchange jokes about

the Tupac Amaru guerrillas: "I

Wealthy or middle-class

thought Two-pack O'Mara was an Irishman who smokes 40 a day until I discovered Smirnoff." Or, they add new lyrics to the tune of "YMCA", a song performed by the camp American pop group the Village People: "We're having fun with the

significant shorts

controversial in Russian Cuba law

President Bill Clinton once again delayed implementation of a law that would allow US citizens to sue some foreign companies doing business in

Communist-ruled Cuba. He ordered a further six-month suspension of the provision of the so-called Helms-March, enraged Europeans, Canadians and Mexicans. Reuters - Washington

China ancient and modern

Archaeologists have found remains at the heart of Peking which show that people lived 20,000 years ago on the site where an office tower is to be built, a Chinese newspaper

reported. The remains were discovered on 28 December at the construction site for the Oriental Plaza tower. near Tiananmen Square. AP - Peking

Civilian rule in Gambia

President Yahya Jammeh's party won a majority in Gambia's new parliament after elections that complete a return to civilian rule in the small West African nation, following his 1994 military coup. Reuters - Banjul

\$500,000 bomb their kick settlement

Richard Jewell, the security guard who was the focus of the investigation into the Olympic bombing before he was cleared by the government, reached a settlement of more than \$500,000 from the NBC television network, the Wall Street Journal reported. AP - New York

Clinton delays Dramatic rise

HIV figures The number of people testing positive for HIV dramatically increased in Russia over the past year, officials said.

The Health Ministry said 1,031 new cases have been registered in 1996. Of these, 802 people were intravenous drug users who became Burton law which, enacted in infected by sharing needles, it said. According to the report, carried by the Interfax news agency, 2,316 HIV cases, including 287 children, have been registered in the country since 1987. The number of people diagnosed as actually baving AIDS, the last stage of the disease, stands at 248, including 102 children, it said. AP – Moscow

Beachcomber makes history

An Australian beachcomber has reignited debate about the nation's early history by unearthing an old silver coin said to have been dropped by a Portuguese mariner almost 500 years ago on the continent's south-east coast. The find, made in

September but only publicised on Friday after initial checks of the coin's antiquity, is seen as perhaps the first tangible evidence to support a contentious theory that the Portuguese were the first to chart eastern Australia. Reuters - Melbourne

Italians lose

Two Italian amateur footballs teams have been ordered to replay a match that ended prematurely when the players ran out of balls. All three balls available went missing during the game between the southern sides Ginestra and Ruvo after being kicked out of the ground. The referee had no alternative but to blow the whistle early.

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Milosevic set for showdown over poll fraud

Andrew Gumbel Belgrade

Slobadan Milosevic dramatically raised the stakes in his showdown with the Serbian opposition and the international community yesterday, as his government rejected all but the fine print of an OSCE report denouncing his fraudulent handling of last November's municipal elections.

Despite the relentless pres-sure of world opinion and almost eight weeks of noisy protests on the streets, the Serbian President and his allies maintained their refusal to admit defeat in most of the country's major towns and

A keenly-anticipated letter to the OSCE signed by the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Milan Milutinovic conceded only two points: that the opposition coalition Zajedno (Together) had won nine of Belgrade's municipal wards (but not the ruling city council), and that the results in Nis, Serbia's second city, and a handful of other municipalities, needed to be investigated further.

The letter, which reached OSCE headquarters in Vienna during a special meeting to consider the Serbian crisis, was clearly nowhere near enough to satisfy the demands of either the

street protesters or foreign diplomats, and signalled a further hardening in Mr Milosevic's attitude to the outside world. The OSCE report, published last week, had called for full recognition of the opposition's victory.
The OSCE yesterday backed

the findings of the report by former Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez, and called on Belgrade to fully implement "Most probably Mr Milose-

Milosevic and his wife cannot stomach living in a city where

the opposition is in charge'

vic has decided to reject the OSCE recommendations. If so. that means he is going to con-front the whole world," said Ilija Djukic, a former Yugoslav foreign minister who is now prominent within the opposition Democratic Party.

Opposition leaders addressing supporters at their daily rally in the centre of Belgrade ruling party was refusing to number of senior state offi-

vowed to intensify their protests, and accused Mr Milosevic of clinging to power through lies and low trickery. "He is like a thief who steals your wallet and then tries to claim the wallet was his all along," said the Democratic Party's leader, Zoran Djindjic.

Opposition officials said they suspected Mr Milosevic was trying to strike a bargain with them, dangling the prize of Nis and other cities before them on condition they relinquish their victory in Belgrade. "Evident-ly, neither Milosevic nor his wife can stomach living in a town

where the opposition is in charge," Mr Djukic said. All three of Zajedno's leaders have so far rejected negotiations out of hand, saying the full recognition of their democratic rights was the prerequisite for any dialogue.

A joint statement took issue with a number of points made by Mr Milutinovic in the letter to the OSCE. It pointed out that the Supreme Court had acknowledged their victory in Nis and had unsuccessfully petitioned the local electoral commission to overturn the cancellation of the vote there. It disputed Mr Milutinovic's claim that the opposition had taken office in the northern town of Zrenjanin, saying the



Handy gesture: Serb opposition protesters making the three-fingered sign of the Orthodox Church at a rally in Belgrade

hand over power to them. With cials are happy to admit their every passing day, the groundswell of public opinion has risen against Mr Milosevic, spreading from the opposition and the students of Belgrade University to such bulwarks of society as the Orthodox Church,

sections of the police and army

and even the security police. A

support for the opposition in private, while scores of judges, university teachers and civil servants have openly expressed

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"When the protests began, all we wanted was the recognition of our basic rights. By this point, Mr Milosevic's grip on

question," Mr Djukic said. street protesters can do except Where the crisis goes from here is hard to predict. Vuk Draskovic, the most volatile and populist of the opposition leaders, has promised a "surprise," both for demonstrators

and police attempting to contain

them, at a rally being convened

at 2pm today. In reality, though,

continue to show up in large numbers with their party whistles and satirical slogans.
The demonstrations are like-

to taper off in the next few days since the Orthodox Christmas falls on Tuesday and about 30 per cent of the student protesters will be going home to power in Serbia is coming into there is not much more the their families in the provinces.

The international community will have a difficult balancing act to perform, having failed to bring Mr Milosevic round. Foreign governments will be keen to keep up the economic and other pressure, but without alienating him to such an extent that he decides to ignore them altogether in

Photograph: Reuter

Netanyahu defiant on deadline for Hebron withdrawal

Dafna Linzer Associated Press

Jerusalem — In an attempt to put down a rebellion by hardliners in his Cabinet, Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he would not give in to Palestinian demands for an Israeli timetable for a troop withdrawal from West Bank rural areas.

The Palestinians say they will US pressure, unless Mr Ne- cial said: "He is obligated by a tanyahu agrees to a deadline for promise to bring it to the Cab-

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withdrawal that the authors of inet, and one assumes he'll both sides to try to overcome the ing abstaining or voting against the original peace accords anticipated would leave most of the West Bank in the control of the Palestinian leader, Yasser **Arafat**

Three more Cabinet ministers said yesterday that they might not vote for the emerging Hebron agreement which could make Cabinet approval for a Hebron deal uncertain.

have to rethink the whole thing Mr Netanyahu's hardline ap-

proach came as agreement on Hebron troop pull-out appeared increasingly remote, despite the efforts of President Clinton's envoy, Dennis Ross, to arrange a meeting between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat. Mr Ross shuttled between

An Israeli government offi- Jerusalem and Mr Arafat's Minister, Tzahi Hanegbi. Two Gaza City office for a fifth day. ministers from the religious

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differences, they are not there yet but there is a genuine effort being made to get there," Mr Ross said after meeting Mr Arafat.

Seven of the 18 ministers in Mr Netanyahu's Cabinet said they would abstain or vote against a Hebron pull-out and another three ministers joined the ranks, including the Justice "Efforts are being made on Shas party were also consider-

the pull-out, Israel radio re-

Many of the ministers who have said they would vote against the Hebron deal enjoy support from Jewish settlers. Yesterday, settlers from the Beit El community set up trailers on a West Bank hilltop, defying Mr Netanyahu's decision not to create new settlements. They were joined by 200 others who held morning prayers on the rocky hilltop.

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be named after Ita and Efraim Tzur, a mother and son from Beit El who were shot by Palestinian militants last month. After the shooting, Mr Netanyahu had rejected a demand by settlers to build 1,500 new homes

a new settlement at the site, to

in the area, apparently fearing this would harm the delicate negotiations with the Palestinians. A showdown was averted yesterday afternoon, when the

Settlers said they would build in exchange for a promise that the government would considaide, Nabil Abourdeineh, said the settlers' actions were damaging the peace process.

Mr Netanyahu told his Cab-

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inet that he would not agree to

a Palestinian demand that he commit himself to a detailed timetable for withdrawing lsraeli troops from most of the West Bank.

settlers agreed to leave the hill Arafat a date for beginning now want it completed on time.

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withdrawal when the two leaders met. Under the autonomy accord

signed by Mr Netanyahu's predecessors, the three-stage withdrawal was to have begun in September 1996 and be completed a year later. The two sides had an understanding that by September 1997, the Palestinians would control most of the West Bank. However, Mr Netanyahu never started the Instead, he would give Mr pull-out and the Palestinians

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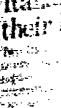


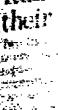




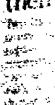


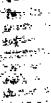




















Rivers turn to ice in Europe's big chill





Winter chill: A passenger waiting for the Hamburg harbour ferry, Germany, while at Hindelopen in the Netherlands skaters take advantage of the frozen canals to practise for the 200km Eleven Towns tour

Agencies

Europe's great rivers are freezing as an icy winter takes its toll across the

Since Monday, the Elbe has been closed to inland navigation from Hamburg almost to the Czech border. Ice is also building in the channel between the North and Baltic seas, closing Schleswig and other smaller harbours.

The Danube remained closed to all shipping traffic from Germany through Austria to Slovakia, and barges were stuck throughout the Benelux countries and Germany, with operators in northern Germany waiting for ice breakers to free

Barge traffic was halted in much of eastern France after parts of the Loire and key canals were sealed with four inches of ice. While the Rhine is still navigable from Rotterdam to Basel, the freeze has hit tributaries and nearby canals.

In Britain, for the first time since the end of the Second World War, the Thames froze at Marlow in Buckinghamshire, 25 miles west of London, Bookmaker William Hill said people were placing bets on whether the river would freeze over in central London. Temperatures in northern conti-

nental Europe and eastern England were around -10C yesterday. It was warmer in Greenland than it was in much of Europe. In the capital, Nuuk, it was 1C; a day earlier, it was a springlike 13Ć. The freeze has taken a grim toll,

claiming the lives of 200 people, many of them homeless or old. In Romania, a Bucharest morgue was overflowing after more than 50 people died of cold. The director said cemeteries were refusing to bury the dead because the ground remained frozen. Most of those who had frozen to death were ill, poor and malnour-



ished, with no identity papers. In Germany, Bonn's gravediggers complained that they were having to use pneumatic drills to get through to 50 centimetres of frozen earth. To make matters worse, many cemeteries had more burials than usual to cope with because of a postholiday backlog.

Leipzig's gravediggers used a more traditional method, applying a layer of glowing coals for six to eight hours to thaw the frozen earth underneath. A Dutchman and a German lost

their lives in separate skiing accidents

In the Netherlands, even the penguins were freezing. An Ams-

in Switzerland on Thursday, Swiss

officials said. The country is suffer-

ing the coldest temperatures since

1987 and is set to get a fresh layer

the -5C outdoors and into a cooler where the temperature can be kept at a constant 5C.

of snow today. In Poland, a nearly two-week spell of Arctic cold has killed at least 40 people, often either elderly and living alone or people who froze to death while drunk. In the Russian Caucasus emergency workers were battling strong winds, blizzards and fog to clear

snowdrifts that have blocked travellers in a mountain road tunnel for a week. The Emergencies Ministry in Moscow said some 30 or so drivers remained blocked in the Roksky tunnel which links Russia with Georgia through the 10,000-foot

Roksky Pass and which has been cut off by avalanches. terdam zoo moved its younger and finishes in the northern Dutch blackfoot penguins - a species na- city of Leeuwarden.

tive to coastal South Africa - out of

Oyster farmers, meanwhile, are worried their produce could freeze to death on the way to market. And in Belgium a lorry driver trapped by some of the coldest weather in years ended up making a vast chocolate fondue after trying to unfreeze his fuel tank with a blow torch. Police said the diesel fuel caught fire. melting tonnes of Belgian chocolates which the lorry was carrying.

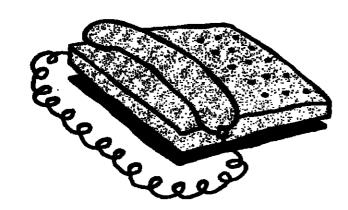
There are some compensations. In the Netherlands, the big chill was being cheered for producing ice thick enough to run a cross-country skating race that has not been held since 1986. About 1 million shivering spectators were expected to line canal and river banks for today's Eleven Towns tour, which starts





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France's high-speed trains meet wrong kind of snow

Mary Dejevsky Paris

More than 30 high-speed trains and thousands of cars were stranded in south-eastern France yesterday after heavy snowfalls and exceptionally low temperatures brought the whole region to a freezing halt. The situation was described by France's usually sanguine emergency services in terms of "chaos" and "crisis"; a coach passenger trapped on a paralysed motorway said the scene resembled "something out of a disaster movie". "It's Siberia!"

was one newspaper headline. Several thousand people had to spend the night in their vehicles, and two elderly German coach passengers suffered heart attacks and died while their coaches were caught in the mèlée. Emergency shelters were opened in school gymnasiums and community halls to accommodate those immobilised by the weather, while the

and even private individuals

As rescue services tried yesterday, mostly in vain, to dislodge the blocked vehicles, drivers across the country were advised by road safety authorities not to leave without chains for their tyres. Anyone planning to travel south of Lyon by any form of transport at all was told in no uncertain terms not even

The already difficult situation

in the south-east, especially in the Rhône Valley, which gen-erally enjoys a mild climate, had been aggravated over Thursday night after black ice on the A7 caused scores of accidents. Heavy lorries and coaches littered the three-lane motorway, and with jams extending for 10km and more, this main north-south artery was eventu-ally closed between Lyon and

The main alternative motorway from Paris to the south, the A75 across the Massif Central.

heavy snow south of Clermont spent the night in railway Ferrand.

The high-speed trains, which usually cover the 750km distance between Paris and Marseille in less than five hours, was crippled south of Lyon on Thursday afternoon, when ice neutralised electric contacts beneath the track and points froze. Unlike coldclimate countries like Canada and Russia, France does not have permanent track de-icing mechanisms, relying instead on de-icing wagons sent ahead of a train when conditions

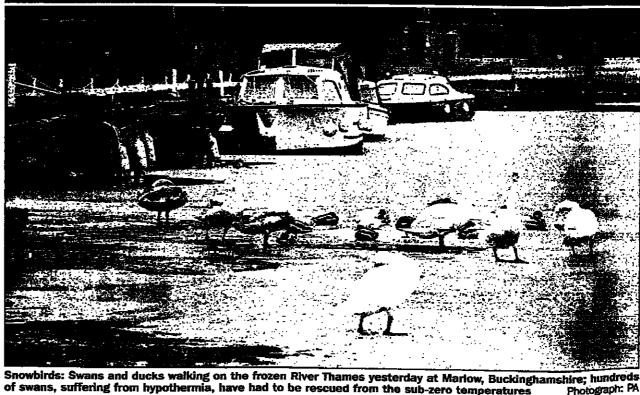
require. The state railway company, SNCF, which has been mounting an elaborate charm offensive to win back passengers deterred by last year's six-week strike, came in for ferocious criticism from passengers who had found themselves stuck in the niddle of nowhere without any information or assistance. SNCF was accused of doing nothing to provide alternative

Air traffic was also affected, with many provincial airports closed, especially in central and southern France.

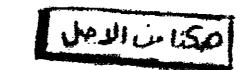
All canals were frozen; even part of the Loire was iced over between Angers and Nantes, trapping dozens of barges. Only on the Riviera and a small plain did temperatures rise

even fractionally above zero. In Paris, where there has been little snow but freezing temperatures for more than a week, the authorities launched a new campaign to persuade two people died over Christmas. President Chirac added his voice, telling ministers at the first cabinet meeting after the holiday that the "problem of the homeless and their dogs" needed to be solved. Many of those

accommodation; 10,000 people ... meanwhile in England, Thames birds are frozen out



THE INDEPENDENT



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Hold the epitaphs, John Major's story isn't over

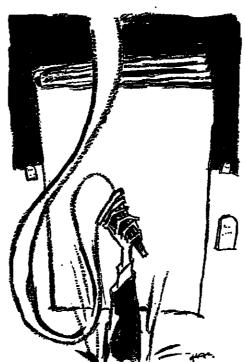
Blue-jacketed, with a forward-looking title, a happy picture of John Major and only a shade under £7 to you, the latest collection of the Prime Minister's speeches is being sold as a guide to his convictions and principles. "Our Nation's Future" is a preelection offering for the thinking Tory voter and it comes just ahead of a rare Prime Ministerial press conference next week, signalling the start of a winter-into-spring campaign. But despite its title and virtues, this collection of Major's rhetoric has, inevitably, a slightly elegiac air: too many opinion polls for too long have shown him far behind for most voters to think he still has a chance.

But does he? And should he? What, in the end, does this collection of the Prime Minis-

The dominant tone of the speeches needs some oxymoronic phrase to capture it - passionate caution, or rhetorical pragmatism. This is not to sneer, they amount to a determined statement about the values, the significance and the achievements of the 19th British Prime Minister this century. Major himself spins us a valiant tale of his time in office. As he tells it, our Prime Minister has been a plucky, if not showy, defender of British interests. Replace the bass-gurgling and you get the picture. Gone is the grandiose appeal to a glorious battle-scarred past, deployed by Margaret Thatcher in her time. In its place is a quieter, calmer Conservatism - but no less nostalgic, and no less

In this most positive and generous interpretation of the life and times of John Major, he has been far-sighted about the threats facing the nation. As he repeats time and again in speeches, John Major is "deeply committed to defending our nation, our heritage, our freedoms, and our constitution and institutions shaped and developed over the centuries -against threats from outside or from inside".

Well, that depends, of course, on the threats.
Yet there is some truth in this flattering selfportrait. On monetary union in Europe, or Scottish devolution, or new rights for employees, the Prime Minister has indeed fought fiercely to resist radical change. But his resistance smacks too often of lack of imagination, and an inability to seize opportunities and lead the nation forwards, rather than the balanced defence of the nation's best interests. Consider Europe. When Chancellor, John Major was one of the first to be uneasy about European currency union. But the trouble is that he behaved far more like the perfect establishment civil servant than the political



leader. He carefully listed the practical obstacles to change and, when his "hard ecu" idea for a parallel currency was brushed aside, he largely confined himself to disapproving throat-clearing on the sidelines. On this, his epitaph might read: "far-sighted but politically ineffectual".

On the domestic front, Mr Major has been the true traditional conservative that Margaret Thatcher never was. With great persistence he has repeated his refrain about a "classless society". The ordinary boy from Brixton made good says, "I want people to get on ... I do want children to get above themselves." But John Major won't be remembered as the Prime Minister who created radical new opportunities for the people at the bottom to rise up and thrive. He has not been a passionate builder of ladders. What he really means is that ordinary people should be able to do it for themselves, if they can. Conservatives have said the same

conventional and conservative. Faced with the possibility of negotiating peace in Northern Ireland, he worked hard and honestly - but he also failed to make the positive leap of faith last year that could have pushed talks forward. The prospect of devolution in Scotland, or

passing power downwards towards local government is, it seems, inconceivable to him. In these regards he is as centralist and statist as anyone.

Voters in search of leadership, and historians in search of significance, may well shake their heads and move on. But we shouldn't underestimate John Major's personality. Just because he hasn't been radical doesn't mean he has failed to achieve anything in his own terms at least. It is incredibly difficult to stand still when all about you are losing their heads - and at times, their dignity,

ter's thinking add up to?

British Bulldog with a loyal, tenacious terrier

throughout the century.

His view of the British Union is similarly

their discretion and their direction.

Holding the country steady may not be much to boast about, but holding the Conservative Party steady (or at least together) is an astonishing feat these days - and too much for a nice man. Whatever else history's verdict on John Major, on his speeches and on his politics, it should not be that he was a nice, wet, grey man. He is an agile, cold, and ruthless politician, who has so far succeeded at one of the most difficult tasks of all - staying in power. And that, after all, is what the next few months will all be about. He may not have made a huge impact on the country, but his influence on the political story of Britain isn't over yet. The epitaphs

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Building trust between Labour leadership and the grassroots

Sir: Your report ("Labour at odds over power to make policy", 2 January) that Tribune is planning to publish proposals aimed at establishing a relationship of trust between Labour's grassroots and a Blair government comes as welcome news. The breakdown in trust between the last Labour government and Labour activists not only helped Mrs Thatcher win in 1979 but also left a legacy of bitterness which came very close to destroying Labour in the early 1980s. Avoiding a repetition of this should be a priority for everyone in New Labour.

The key lies in empowering individual party members and giving them a stake in a Labour government: One member, one vote (OMΘY) was a step in the right direction and so, too, says the Ro to the Manifesto ballot, but this trend needs to be taken much further. The Labour Co-ordinating Committee's proposals include: a

members' charter setting out what rights and levels of service individual party members should be entitled to; much greater direct contact with individual members through question-and-answer sessions with Labour cabinet ministers; wider use of the Internet; a much greater emphasis on political education through the establishment of a University of Labour; the extension of OMOV to elections for constituency officers, party conference delegates and council candidates, and a reformed NEC which is more representative of grassroots members.

New Labour's own internal democracy should prefigure the democratic renewal which a Blair government will embark upon for

Local parties should remain the central organisations within New Labour but they should be open participatory bodies not hierarchical

bureaucracy-driven federations. That means getting rid of traditional General Committees, and instead putting the emphasis on local ward branches, all-members meetings, local campaigning, community regeneration, political discussion and political education.

The LCC's proposals do not claim to be the final word on party reform. The more proposals there are for giving party members a stake in a New Labour government the better which is why Tribune's reported initiative is to be welcomed. **BEN LUCAS**

Chair, the Labour Co-ordinating London, SE24

Sir. The proposals by the Labour Coconfused as they are untimely.

To put local party democracy in the hands of a few elected activists is the antithesis of the mass party that

Labour has successfully built in recent years, increasing participatory democracy at the expense of

representative democracy. The only willing representatives under the LCC proposals would be the same old activists, and in particular, aspirant politicians.

One of the strengths of Labour's local organisation, which far surpasses that of any other British political party, is that important functionary positions are often filled by those who do not seek to be representatives. The reliable secretary, the diligent treasurer and the unbiased chair are the unsung heroes who are often unlikely to put themselves forward in postal ballots against aspirant politicians.

This proposal would return had old days of the early 1980s. JOANNA WHITE Baldock,

LETTER from Patten shuns China's assembly

Sir: Neville Maxwell often goes to extraordinary lengths as an apologist for Peking. But his attempt to blame Governor Patten for China's decision to dismantle Hong Kong's democratically elected Legislative Council surely takes the biscuit. (letter, 30 December).

The fact is that China is replacing a body elected in Hong Kong by over a million people in September 1995 by one selected over the border by just 400 friends of China. And of the 60 people picked in this way. 51 were chosen from among those making the selection. And why is China doing this? Because it wants to reduce the number of Democrats in LegCo. It is like abolishing the House of Commons, rep with a group of hand-picked rich and famous people voting for themselves. and holding the selection in France. And yet Mr Maxwell has the gall to accuse Mr Patten of gerrymandering.

International lawyer after international lawyer, including a distinguished group of lawyers testifying to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee in 1994, has found the electoral arrangements for the 1995 LegCo elections to be in line with both the Joint Declaration and Basic Law, You won't find them queuing up to defend China's recent efforts. The International Commission of Jurists has denounced the "provisional legislature", and China has conspicuously failed to accept Britain' invitation to go to the International Court of Justice for a ruling on the matter. It is not hard to see why.

The establishment of the "provisional legislature" is a wholly unnecessary and foolish step for China to take. The Hong Kong government will have nothing to do with this body, and will continue to work with Hong Kong's only legitimate legislature - that elected in record members by the people of Hong Kong just 15 months ago. KERRY McGLYNN Information Co-ordinator Government House Hong Kong

Sir: Governor Chris Patten's attempts to broaden the democratic base failed completely in so much as there will shortly be no popularly elected representation at all. They also caused a deterioration in Sino-British relations and encouraged Peking's latest, at times even paranoid, suspicions that somehow we scheme to extend British influence beyond 1997. It is, however, unfair to call these

reforms a gerrymander to "strengthen the electoral chances of the anti-Peking party". They were instead maladroit and ill-advised, as indeed is Mr Patten's description of Peking's appointment of an interim chamber for Honk Kong as "stomach turning". Former governors of Hong Kong, undemocratic by appointment and in practice, never spoke of the Chinese government in such undignified terms.

There is every sign that China will adhere to the "one country, two systems" principle originally announced by Deng Xizoping. It is very much in China's interest to maintain a prosperous and stable Hong Kong and the bulk of the population accepts this. One thing is sure: outside attention will have little bearing on how China acts in her newly resumed territory. IAN RAÉ

Drinkstone, Suffolk

Sir: You list as candidates to take over from Major after the lost election the names of Dorrell, Howard, Rifkind, Redwood, Portillo and Shephard. Really? The Lord help us ... unless your profile of Patten in the same issue (3 January) suggests there is a sane alternative.

THE EDITOR

In a general way, I am in less state, and quite right, favour of families. I came from one. Since then, I have myself gone into the fam-ily thing, more or less volun-tarily. See me in the park on a Saturday morning, bleary-eyed, implausibly dressed and surrounded by shrilly hectoring midgets and you'd say, "Now then, there is a Family Man."

So the politicians who boldly proclaim themselves to be standing up for the family – most recently, in a pamphlet published this morning, the ime Minister - are presumably bidding for my vote. Mr Major talks of his "strong belief in the fundamental importance of the family and our national institutions" and his determination to protect the family's rights and responsibilities from "the incursions of the faceless state". And my question is – why is this sort of talk not reassuring and pleas-

ant, but merely infuriating? It is partly the politics-speak

the implication that Britain is
seething with people plotting to dismantle our historic native families and ship off the wretched huddled fragments to state collective nurseries, or people who think there is a strong case to be made for the "faceless state" (a different state, presumably, to the smiley one which Mr Major leads).

Mainly, though, the problem with "family" rhetoric is that it implies that families are a source of uncomplicated good and that individuals within them need no further protection or intervention - leave the family alone and everything will be fine. Who believes that? We all know that families are also places where child abuse. neglect and horrible cruelty can occur. We all know that there are bad parents as well as good parents, and that both kinds can Larkin-you-up.

Mostly, the state intervenes where it does because not intervening would bring fury and protests from individuals and newspapers, including this one.

Terry Major-Ball's brother knows this perfectly well - be is posing as a libertarian antistatist to cheer up some rightwing journalists, but in fact he heads a highly interventionist government (what is the Child Support Agency but the face-

too). To say you want the state to keep away in order to protect the family is like being pro-air and therefore against state interference against polluters, or pro-housing, and therefore against housing reg-ulations. It being election year. we have purchased a battery-operated office hooeycounter. And this registers, I'm afraid to sav, heavily as Serious Tepid Hooey.

I am still having difficulty distinguish between the role of columnists and the position of the newspaper. Why do I

The problem with family rhetoric is that it implies that families are a source of uncomplicated good. Who believes that?

"allow" Polly Toynbee to berate this, or John Lyttle to glorify that? The law and reasonable standards of taste and fairness apart, "allow" has nothing to do with it - our columnists are employed to be themselves and to provoke argument or agreement, not to act as glove-puppets for the editor or proprietor. (A fetching array of such puppets, nicely tricked out with how-ties and detachable facial hair, can be purchased elsewhere.

through your usual newsagent.)
Here, the opinion and col-umn slots are, or ought to be. like a free-ranging conversation in a bar or at a good supper party. They are a zig-zag-ging argument, not "the line". If anyone still doubts this, they should reflect on the series of articles against constitutional reform by Richard D North that we have carried this week. The final one is on page 12 of today's paper. They are wellwritten and compelling. I'm proud we used them; and I disagreed with every word.

Andrew Marr

EU dictatorship doomed to fail Sir: Guy Keleny("The Euro-sceptic

lie about why we fought Hitler," 2 January) raises his own bogey in order to knock it down. No one seriously suggests that Helmut Kohl is another Hitler. What he does represent is a continuing German drive to dominate Europe, and British foreign policy has always successfully resisted attempts by any one power to exercise hegemony over the Continent: against Spain in the 16th century, France in the 17th-19th centuries, and Germany in the 20th century.

Like many Europhiles, Keleny confuses the EU with Europe. The EU is merely an economic and political construct imposed upon half of Europe by officials. It is doomed to perish because it is undemocratic, economically inefficient, and increasingly remote from the needs and concerns of most people. In the words of that wise European, the late Karl Popper, it is a "Jacobin dictatorship that cannot work and will not work".

The absurdity of attempting to yoke together Scots and Sicilians, Swedes and Spaniards is selfevident. The ghastly example of former Yugoslavia is too recent a memory of what happens when politicians try to federate disparate peoples divided by religion, culture and language into an entirely bogus and artificial union, especially when one of those peoples (Serbs/Germans) has demonstrated a historical tendency to bully and

boss its neighbours. I write not as a Europhobe, but as a repentant Europhile reluctantly converted to EU-scepticism by the sobering experience of spending six years in two EU countries. Far from being a renophobic nationalist, my two children are respectively half-French and half-Austrian. However, of the options on offer, I have sadly concluded that the nation state remains the most practical and

Sir: Crisis certainly does not wish to

snuh any of its volunteers (letter, 31

their sake as much as for our clients'

sakes. However, we certainly don't



democratic way of ordering our political future. NIGEL JONES

Brighton, East Sussex

Sir: Guy Keleny misunderstands the motives of Euro-sceptics. Being a Euro-sceptic doesn't just involve protecting British sovereignty. although that forms a large part of There are three possible outcomes

for monetary union: the whole of the EU goes ahead with the project, which will bring an economic depression to Europe (and the UK); continental Europe goes ahead and the UK doesn't, which will still cause a depression on the Continent, but our economy should be able to survive successfully, the third and ideal outcome is if the whole project is abandoned, which will allow Europe's economies to experience reasonable economic growth for the

first time this decade. The UK has a definite interest in Europe's affairs - for which we

Hitler and Kohl: the political face has changed, but the German drive to dominate Europe continues should still be part of Europe.
Besides a desire to avoid conflicts such as Mr Keleny described ever being repeated, a significant amount of British trade depends upon the economic performance of our European partners. For these reasons Britain should still maintain a degree of influence in European

affairs, as it has done in the 18th and 19th centuries - and I believe Mr Keleny misjudges the Euro-sceptics in thinking they do not want this. BEN DAVIS London NW3 Sir. When Britain and the other European powers were the only world powers, this country's principal foreign policy objective was the

maintenance of a balance of power in Europe by throwing its weight against whatever power threatened to attain overwhelming superiority. Today the European powers have lost their role as guiding forces in world affairs. In future only by

pooling our sovereignty can we hope

to maintain our influence in the world. This has to be the ultimate purpose of the European Union.

Sir: You reported ("Goldsmith party is scorned as amateur", 1 January) that John Bostock has left his job with the Referendum Party. Mr Bostock was only a consultant and not a full-time member of the Referendum Party. It was the party that decided not to renew Mr Bostock's consultancy agreement. He was notified in writing of this decision on 4 December last year. You also reported Mr Bostock's affirmation that the Referendum Party would find it impossible to field candidates in up to 500 scats at the next election. This is untrue; 530 prospective parliamentary candidates have already been appointed. MALCOLM GLENN Managing Director The Referendum Party London SW1

Drink-drivers suddenly get safer

Sir: The Association of Chief Police Officers expresses disappointment that the number of people caught driving while over the alcohol limit in England and Wales over Christmas increased by 18 per cent (report, 3 January). Yet, and despite very bad weather, the number of alcoholrelated accidents during this period increased by only 4 per cent. Should we not rejoice that the inebriate minority of drivers have, in

the course of a single year, learned to like measure.

> RICHARD WOODS North Lopham, Norfolk

QUOTE UNQUOTE

The Tory party emphasises personal morality because it wishes to resist the economic and political changes that threaten the privileged position of its supporters - The Rt Rev Richard Harries. Bishop of Oxford

It is the latest in a series of party political pronouncements from the Church of England - Ann Widdecombe, Home Office minis-

Blair? Like Gaitskell, High-minded. Not my cup of tea - A L Rowse, 94, historian, who became a Companion of Honour in the New Year Honours

Mr Major may have made to lend respectability to his shameful honours list by making her a dame - Auberon Waugh A general election will be held in Britain no later than May. The country must reach a clear decision on its European policy. Britain

Let us be thankful that Marianne Faithfull resisted any attempts

belongs to Europe. Europe needs Britain - Klaus Kinkel. Ger-Some parents shown the video were previously convinced their

children were elsewhere at nights. In one case two girls at the centre of a disturbance were thought to be attending dancing classes Inspector Tony Green, who has cut crime by showing parents in Woodhouse, near Sheffield, videos of their children offending



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December) and indeed values their support enormously. We could not run any of our services without Crisis was quoted in the article which prompted the letter (23 December) as noting that volunteers need to have realistic expectations of what the work involves. This we stand by - volunteering can be hard work, physically and emotionally. New physically must be aware of this for

Hard work for Christmas volunteers question people's motives for volunteering. Nor do we ask for a lifetime's commitment.

I hope potential volunteers have not been put off, Volunteering can be hugely rewarding for all concerned and is often more vital than money in enabling a service to go ahead. BERRY RANCE Head of Project Development Crisis London El

drive so much more carefully? Indeed, think of the decrease in the number of accidents which might be expected were the sober majority of drivers to improve their driving in

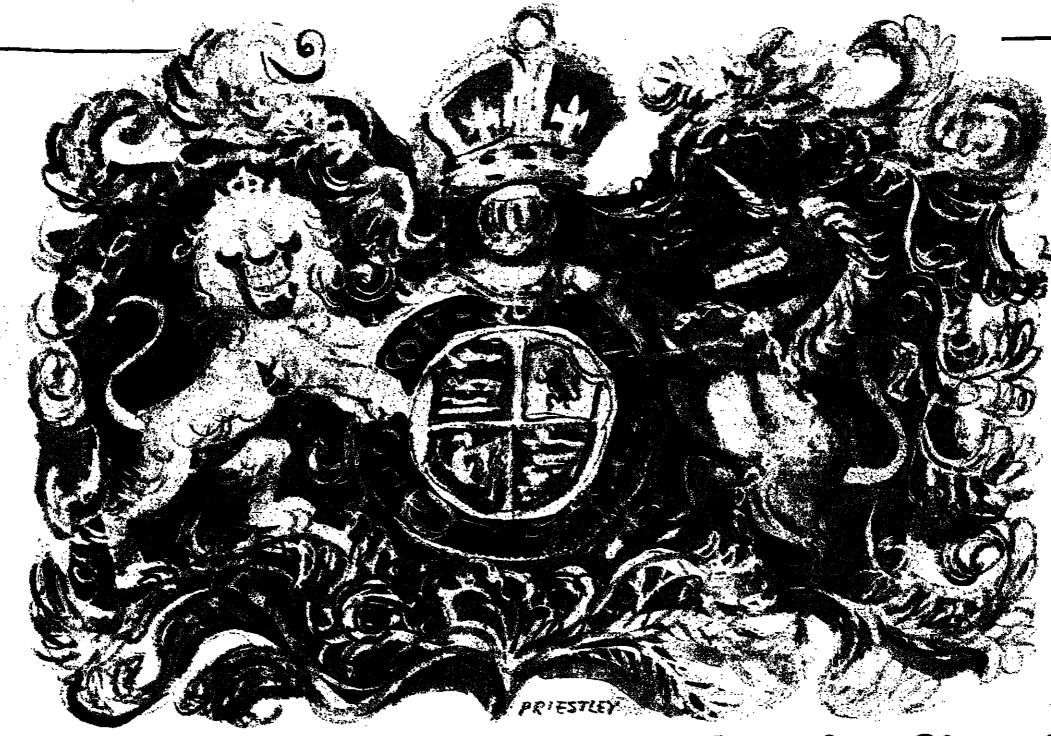
Or is there something the police statisticians have not told us? DR SIDNEY ALFORD Corsham,

Lefters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

essay

Concluding his series on the constitution, Richard D North defends our imperfect version of democracy and exposes the myth of a centralised Britain in the grip of the ruling class



It's baroque, but don't fix it

f course it's not govpeople. The genius of a democracy is to let everyone in a society feel that they have control, or at least influence, while at the same time sparing them the effort of exercising much of either most of the time. It is the second part of this proposition which makes one doubt the modern enthusiasm for quoting de Tocqueville quite so much. The French political writer admired American small town administration, especially the right of and need for everyone to take part. "Without local institutions a nation may give itself a free government, but it has not got the spirit of liberty."

As it happens, the people as a whole are neither especially wise nor very nice, and these deficiencies make an even better case for undemocratic processes. Democratic institutions are seldom in fact very democratic, but they produce out-

kinder than pure democracy would achieve, and most of us know it. It is also true that the "state" may be kinder than the community: the cosmopolitan centre more amiable than the repressive neighbourhood.

For proof of these propos-itions, consider only that most people most of the time think that murderers should swing by their necks, and that we should keep our hands in our pockets when we pass the poor in the street. It is our parliamentarians who dictate that capital punishment is immoral and ineffective, and who endlessly on never quite allows them to do so.

All the same, it is right that people should constantly check that those who have power are in some sense accountable. On the whole, we believe that this is best achieved by what the Roman Catholic Church and

be taken as near as possible to

those they affect.
Periodically, enthusiasts argue that Scotland and Wales (and, rather differently, Northern Ireland) ought to be allowed moré independence. Many English people would feel that they were welcome to it, especially if their influence. and charge, upon Westminster were proportionally reduced. Why not? We have already had the best of their mineral resources, and will continue to attract their best brains, however they govern themselves. But many Britons are happy parade their intention to take enough with the arrangement less tax from us, but find their as it stands: as Ralf Dahrendorf says, we rather like "the beautiful absurdity of 'home international' football games".

is axiomatic that Mrs Thatcher destroyed local Lgovernment and centralised power. It is also wrong. Even if it were true, it might not the EU call "subsidiarity": the matter. Local government is comes which are eleverer and principle that decisions should mostly about boring things such

are doing much of it pretty well. Where local authorities run interesting things, such as police forces and schools, there would be a massive outcry if standards were to vary around

the country.

Mrs Thatcher's attempted revolution in local government was one of her many failures, not in the sense that it was a disaster, but that it was aborted. The poll tax, for instance, could have ushered in a system whereby local people raised local taxes for local services with a potential for a high degree of autonomy. One of her reforms looks like being a small success: system whereby a tier of local government is stripped out of the system may revitalise local democracy by allowing people to vote less, but for clear purpose. The reform overcomes voter fatigue, rather than creating a dangerous democratic deficit.

But the main thrust of the argument that Mrs Thatcher was a centraliser is wrong. There is very little power in the UK for anyone to centralise. You can look where you like and you find civil servants and politicians trying very hard to discern and then deliver what the voter wants, and to do it

It is right that the only pas-

Thank Gawd all this new

12 months. Miserable old

gang piss-up that is New

Year's Eve. Why anyone wants to go to Trafalgar

drongos who don't know

each other, I cannot

those of you who are

Square to be crushed by a

imagine. I didn't even want

to do it when I was young, to

thinking that I'm just an ageing old trout who doesn't

know how to enjoy herself. A

friend of mine whose mate

worked in a club on New

Year's Eve said the whole

testosterone-heavy air and regular police raids. Oh

boys, you are such joy when

with fists flying in the

night was just one long ruck,

beery mob of semi-comatose

goat I may be, but I cannot

stand all the forced, cheery,

year stuff is over for another

threat as is the anonymity that they need in order to pre-

ou find people scruti-nised and disciplined by (and here is a partial list): the Today programme, the rest of the energetic media, (the quite new) Commons select committees, the National Audit Office, the Audit Commission, judicial review, increasingly nosy and bossy judges (whom we should watch), occasional judicial inquiries, assiduous single-issue campaigners, vainglorious academics. And on top of all this we now face the biggest mounted on to the deck of the ship of state: the threat of

People fear that Parliament cannot scrutinise the apparatus of the state it has sanctioned. Why should it, with this army of snipers? Given the modern excess of scrutiny, the ease of exacting retribution and the hunger for very visible redress, it is a miracle that anything good - but no miracle that little that is very bad - is

achieved by the body politic. much of government to tender, and setting up agencies of one sort or another, we have made the lines of accountability bard sion we should allow civil ser- to follow, as we have seen this vants is for disinterestedness, year in the case of the Prison

as drains and dustbins; firms which is not under half so much Service. But if there are many more slip-ups of that sort, min-isters will be forced to delineate the chain of command better, and the result should be a pretty effective improvement of a worthwhile reform.

It is a persistent myth that Britain is ruled not merely centrally, but by something called the Establishment. How this squares with the idea, also current, that Britain's ruling class (whatever that is) is as ignorant as it is distrustful of the commercial class, is anyone's guess. As is the problem of how it comes about that academia has little to do with either. There clearly is no ruling class, and the racy especially should appeal to anyone who wants Britain to be classless; its chiefs are overwhelmingly provincial, grammar school and red-brick university types.

There were, of course, fears that the agencies lack a real sense of public service. But who can listen to the chiefs of the schools or the prisons inspection services without noting that they are freer of institutionalised humbug than conventional civil service institutions would have been? It is true that by putting out Isn't that exactly what we wanted to see? The reviled Citizen's Charter and league tables reveal to us regularly what we know already as people who use them: schools and

hospitals are doing very well,

jo brand's week

considering how reluctant we are to fund them. In any case, what is so often

missed is that accountability lies like flotsam and jetsam all around the shores of the new Archipelago State, and most of us can't be bothered to pick it up. Schools and hospitals now really do make themselves open to customer influence, and, like most ministries, conduct long and serious exercises in public consultation. Most of us feel that little is wrong, so we let others play our part for us.

Tuch the same case applies to information as it does to accountter informed by their government on a huge range of irrelevancies than are the British, but no one seriously believes that America's is a better run or more open government. Most other European societies are run by closed élites. But then their peoples are schooled in being citizens of a state, whilst we luxuriate as

subjects of the Crown. Where in the world does the Cabinet parade before the discerning classes at length every morning? Where in the world do senior civil servants delight to inform sensible journalists of every problem their political masters face? Or consider, too briefly, rights: do the British feel they have fewer rights need to fix it.

crammed on to a page of A4? bad justice system that destroys rights, rather than a piece of paper that might defend them?

The truth about the British constitutional system is that there are things we perhaps don't like about it that might be put right, but with probably largely disappointing results. Constitutions do not create the vigour in society, though they may play their part in repressing it. They certainly don't make a people energetic or entrepreneurial. The most one can hope is that a government reflects its people's temper. This is where economy or government more ing culturally because we are in thrall to our past, and thus need to throw over its trappings. In fact, it is more likely that as modernity sweeps through our culture like a gale, we would be wise to cling to such bits of the wreckage that provide us with comfort. The failings of modern British government lie much more with the alternating indolence and graspingness of voters and the vulgarity of its media, than they do with the constitutional system or even the people manning it. To pervert Disney slightly, the constitution is Baroque, but there's no

COULD YOU Good leaders must weigh up all the facts quickly. Make important They have to lead by example, never asking people to do things they

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To apply as an Officer you should be aged 18-24, ideally with A-levels or a degree. For more details post this coupon to Army Officer Entry, Freepost 4335, Dept. 2649, Bristol BS1 3YX or phone 0345 300 111 quoting ref 2649. The Army is committed to

Many people assume, I think, that if you're on the telly, you are immune to the mouthfuls of abuse you get from time to time. Not so. Over Christmas, I was with some of my family on my way to see my grandma. when I was assailed with a mouthful of very unpleasant obscenities from some

chin stage of development. And, yes, I was hurt by it, especially as I tend to think I'm immune when I'm with the family. I would like to thank my mum and my grandma, who both took off at separate times in the direction of the abuse like a glorious pair of raging Valkyries to sort the offenders out. I wish I had my own New Year's Honours List to reward them appropriately.

Who on earth would go and see a film about the life of Fred West and the terrible crimes he committed? The answer, probably, is millions, and that is why the production company who wanted to make this film suggested it - because it would have made them lots of money. Everyone would have pretended to be outraged, but loads of people would have trundled along to see it. We have to accept, I think, that a section of the population is absolutely riveted by the whole Fred West affair, or one would certainly think so from the way the tabloids were flooded with every possible angle. The film. though, has now been

scrapped, so the mob that would have gone to see it will just have to put up with watching fictional violence and sexual crimes against those too vulnerable to defend themselves. Still, there are plenty of such films to choose from coming out of Hollywood.

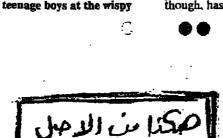
John McCarthy would like to have a "one to one" with Yuri Gagarin, the Russian cosmonaut with whom he obviously feels he has something in common, given the claustrophobic conditions they have both experienced. I can understand Mr McCarthy wants to share his suffering with an individual who might have been able to identify with him. However. this is all within the context

of an advert for some cellular phone network, for which Mr McCarthy is no doubt being paid a fair old wback. I reserve judgement to some extent; for all we know he might be giving the money to charity. Or is he just another who has cheapened his experiences for the sake of some cash? I hear many good reasons for fellow comics doing ads. including one joker who reckoned if his ad was successful the product would sell more and thus provide more jobs(good one), to another comic who assured me he only does ads for products that poor people can afford (dear me). The whole truth and nothing but the truth is that people do ads for lots of money and no

but to the freedom of men "to engage in sexual intercourse without being powerfully constrained" according to social scientist Norman Dennis. It seems that if blokes stopped putting it about quite so much and settled down to a monogamous relationship (like they did in the old days, ho ho ho), they would not have the time, or the inclination to do an offlicence or post office. Surely, if men were nomping as much as Norman says, they'd be too tired to hold anything other than their own sawnoffs. Mr Dennis also argues that single mothers and the unemployed should be held partly responsible for their own low incomes. It seems Norman is a Labour man so at least his results seem to fit in with current party ideology. I rather liked Claire Rayner's reaction to Mr Dennis's research. It was well thought out, intelligent and apposite ... and it was: "utter bollocks". Though if all these blokes are as rampant as we are led to believe, perhaps "empty bollocks" might have been more appropriate.

So, apparently, crime isn't

linked to poverty after all,

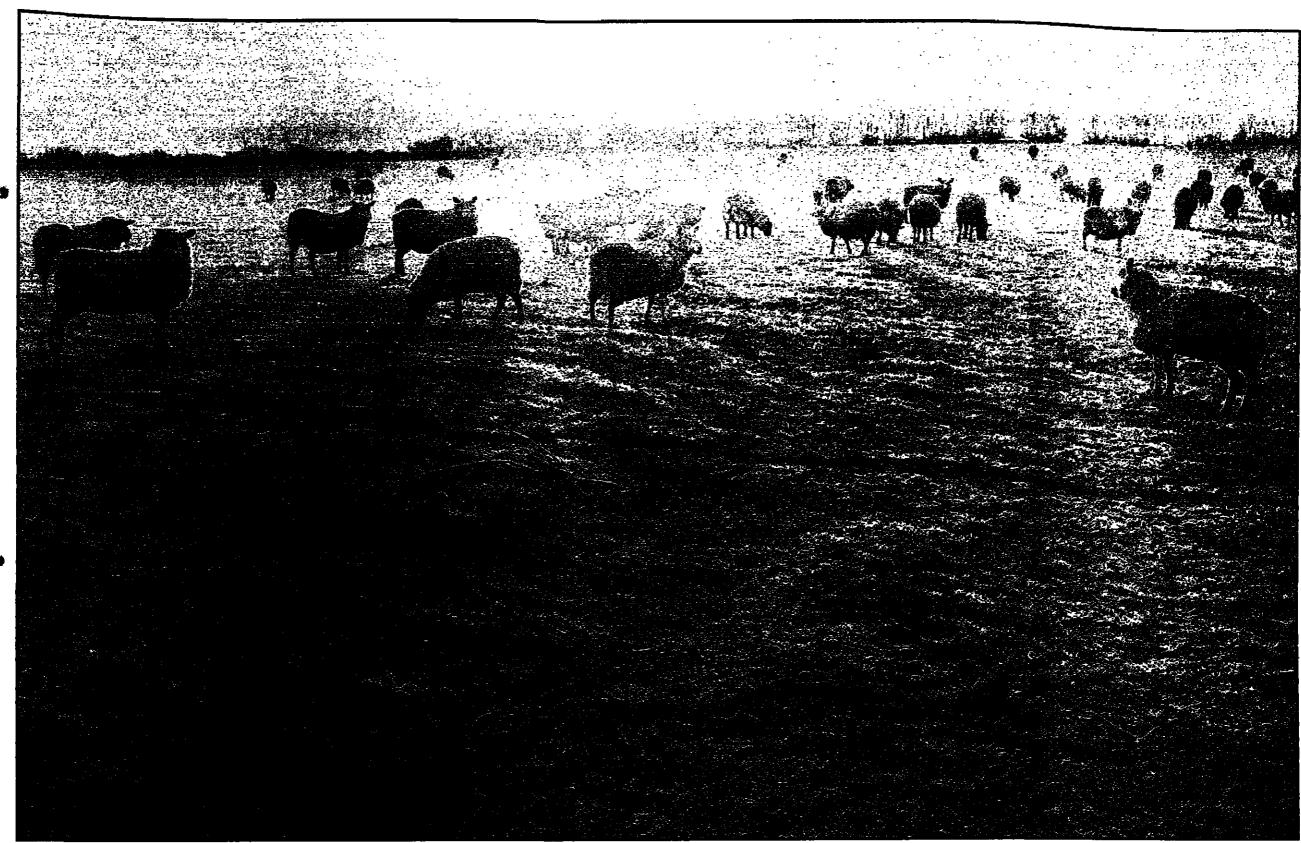


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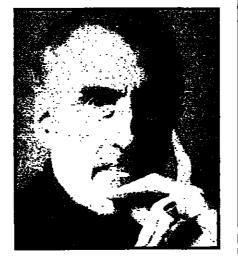


Westward cold. Shivering sheep scrabble for grass on a Cornish moor. Photograph by John Voos. Taken with 20mm lens on a Nikon. Kodak ASA, 60th second at f16

the ongweekers

There's something about the stoicism of sheep in the cold which makes a freezing day seem colder and makes the inclination to hibernate almost irresistible. Here's a useless fact: in 1947 – one of the great chills of the century - 20 million sheep died in the frost. The antidote is here (though not for sheep). We can discover the secrets of Sondheim, take elegant tea, cruise in a Bentley, sort out our finances and order garden seeds to helps us dream of a balmy scentladen summer.

interview



Christopher Lee, Prince of Order

Star of new series Ivanhoe has 'one foot in the grave, one on a banana skin' page 3

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arts & books



A rebel after all these years

Stephen Sondheim cares about young writers. Enough to be interviewed about them. Just page 4

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travel



Searching for owls and tiger bingos

Caroline Dilke finds herself twitching to discover the mysteries of birdwatching page 9

London Calling 11,12,13 Gardening. 15

consuming



Of teapots, coffee chic and good taste

Expensive, esoteric and exotic: the drinks that have become a new style accessory page 17

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Too many rooks spoil the froth

William Hartston traces the history of a new experiment in group chess deviancy

This week saw the launch, in a lather of frothy exuberance, of a new, improved version of the ancient game of chess. No longer will chess be a game for two players spelt with two esses. "Ches 3", invented after 11 years of painstaking research by Khia Rassmussin, has three players and one "s". Mr Rassmussin, from Perthshire, Scotland, is reported to have invested £40,000 in the development of the game, which has now been launched by the Brighton-based company Connection. But the omens for the game are not good, for the idea behind it is not as new as they

seem to think. David Pritchard's Encyclopedia of Chess Variants lists 31 distinct versions of three-player chess, the earliest of which dates back to 1765. All feature different attempts to solve the two basic problems of the three-handed game: what's the shape of the board, and what do you have to do in order to defeat both opponents?

On the first count, the simplest idea is just to extend the normal board to accommodate another set of pieces, as, for example, in the 1843 version by Tesche shown in the lowest diagram. But there is no way of doing this to produce perfect three-way symmetry. Squares into triangles won't go. You may, as Tesche claimed he had done, produce a game with more of less equal chances for the three players, but they still occupy different terrains at the start.

You can get round the problem by using hexagons instead of squares, as Sigmund Wellisch did in his 1912 "Three-Handed Hexagonal Chess". Hexagons, however, make life hell for bishops, because there are no real diagonals. You need either three quasi-bishops to cover the whole board on pseudo-diagonals. or, as Wellisch preferred, to eliminate bishops from the game altogether. If you like hexagons and don't want to lose your bishops, there's a 1964 three-handed hexagonal game, invented by Joe Baxter. played on a 217-hexagon board with 19 men on each side.

If you want symmetry, but consider hexagons too outlandish. you can arrange your three sides at 120° angles to each other, but then face the problem of what to do with the space in the middle. Henry J Self. in 1895 (middle diagram), did nothing with it at all. On reaching the no-man s-land in the middle, a player just continues round its edge. "In my game." Self proudly announced, "the pieces of any one of the players have not the slightest advantage so far as position goes over either of the remaining players." On the other hand, once you have sent your pieces into battle against one opponent, it's a very long trip to get them back to fight the other.

Rassmussen's new game gets round that problem with an elegant diamond array serving as crossroads in the centre of the battlefield. You still have to decide whether to turn left or right on reaching the middle, but the route back is not so arduous. Similar attempts to design neat traffic intersections in the centre were designed by Coqueret and Waider,

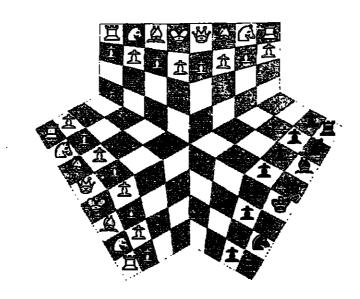
But how do you decide who has won? The problem with threehanded chess that nobody has truly solved is to concoct a set of rules that prevents two players ganging up on the third, then fighting each other for the gold and silver medals. Self tried to encourage aggressive play by rewarding any player who checkmated another with the return of any of his captured pieces. Other variants, such as Tesche's, do not eliminate a checkmated (or stalemated) player, but merely freeze his participation in the game until such time as the checkmate is lifted. The eventual winner must leave both his opponent's checkmated simultaneously. Since forces used in a checkmate are liable to be needed sooner or later elsewhere, this can prolong a game almost indefinitely.

But will Ches 3 catch on? Over the past 25 years, Allegiance Chess, Chesser, Dreier-Schach, En Garde, Interface, Mad Threeparty Chess, Neutral-Zone Chess, Three-Man Chess, Three-Player Chess, Tri-Chess, Trio Chess. Triscacsia and Trischa are only a few of the proprietary three-player chess games that sank almost without trace soon after their

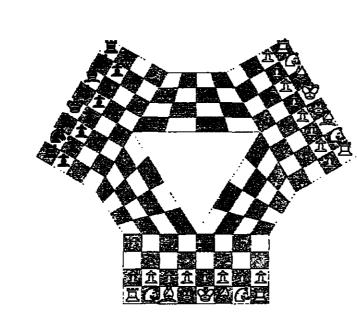
We have also seen Four-Handed Dice Chess, Four-Handed Round Chess (played on a circular board). Decimal Four-Handed Chess (on a ten-by-ten board). Russian Four-Handed Chess, Forchess, Partnership Chess, Double Chess and a host of other chess deviations for four players.

The trouble is that the good old ancient game of chess for two seems to have the potential to create quite enough complexity, and certainly sufficient acrimony among its participants, to satisfy all our needs. And even if chess is not the perfect game, it has established itself too well as the principal intellectual board game in Western society. As the history of such games shown, when a mutated mree-nanged version evolves alongside the established species, it does not tend to survive.

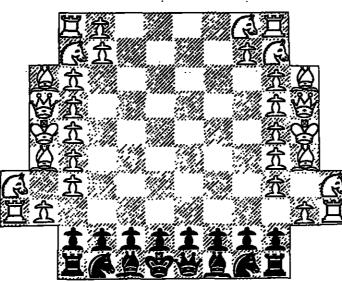
Sets of Ches 3 will soon be available at prices between £30 and £70. David Pritchard's 'The Encyclopedia of Chess Variants' may be obtained from: Games & Puzzles Publications, PO Box 20. Godalming, Surrey, for £21.99 including postage.



Three-handed chess, 1997-style: Khia Rassmussin's 'Ches 3'



Henry Self's 'New and Improved Chess for Three Players' (1895)



An 1843 three-hander: checkmate results in suspended animation

Games people play

Pandora Melly discovers what people really do in their spare time

Arvind Oberoi, 55, Company Director

I'll give you a game to play. I don't know what this is, but I played it once at a party in New York. Here is what you do. You get a sheet and throw it over the head of the host, and then you ask him, what does he have on him that we want? So he takes off his watch and his ring and gives them.

Meanwhile, you are walking around with a piece of paper on which is written: "It's the sheet". That is always the last thing he thinks you want. The name of the game is that he gives away everything. If you play with very close friends, then it becomes bizarre, and it's more fun when it gets a little kinky. You say: "It's something my wife wants." He's shouting: "Should I take off my trousers?" One man took off his wedding ring and his wife was furious later on: "How can you let go

of my wedding ring?"
When I was growing up in Bombay, I used

to play a game called "Kitty-Kitty". You have two teams and one guy leans against a wall. The others bend over and hold each other round the waist, then the other team climbs on top. Ninety-five per cent of the time, what happens is that they all jump on the weakling. The hilarious part is if you have a lady playing. Then you tap one of the people on the back and say: "Kitty-Kitty, what number?" If he guesses the right number, all these guys

Where we used to play, we had this very pretty girl who later turned out to be a big model and film actress, and everybody was dying to jump on her.

Popular Sports and Pastimes in India (published in 1973 by the Indian Ministry of Education and Social Welfare) is available, for reference only, from the British Library. Plain white sheets are currently available at very reasonable prices in the January sales.

Whatever happened to ... Unhealthy men

The Seventies. The decade of spending time at football, the pub, down the garden – anything as long as it's not with the family. Of soap-on-a-rope, Playboy, beer bellies and following Henry Cooper's advice to splash on Brut all over. And ending the day with a quick game of squash, and a heart attack.

Then 1976. Good and bad news for men: first the bad. Thatcher wins the Tory leadership, putting in question well-constructed mechanisms to exclude women from public life. But - Clinique launch "Skin Supplies for Men", a new kind of male beauty treatment. And it's quickly realised that Thatcher is as much a man as any of her colleagues.

So A whole raft of products floats down onto our shelves. Suddenly men, by their stumbling acquiescence, wonder what they have agreed to. By 1986 the Body Shop have their Mostly Men range and "dual action" face soap out. sounding sufficiently machine-like to enable men to use it without feeling embarrassed. Next are men's magazines: GQ followed by FHM. After a short pause to register astonishment at this new niche, they break the hold



of pornography on the market. And they work on men's weak points to encourage dependency and neuroses, just as Cosmopolium and Vogue had been doing to women for decades. Pictures of perfectly formed males and expensive clothing present a challenging image for men when they face up to the mirror. Encouraging the idea of sexual deficiency is the next important stage, and Men's Health magazine helps to give the impression that good sex is primarily a question of fitness. Weight training diagrams are shown next to equally carefully drawn sexual positions. For example, how low-seat rowing helps you to do "The Squat". The market economy along with its attendant trappings penetrates Britain, ending the charade that people should be liked for the "person inside". It's too much trouble wading through all that fat to find him. Entrance fees such as £105 at the Paddington, plus £158 annual subscription, are sufficient to keep out undesirables.

The result The propaganda has its effect. A sad moment in 1993 as three British Gas workers are tested with beauty products by Aramis and shown to be "really knowledgeable", according to an Aramis executive. German industry may be fitter and leaner in economic terms than the British version but one member in particular stands out to the contrary. With reunification failing, people begin to attach less weight to the faded German economic miracle. They also notice how fat Kohl coyly starts referring to him as a "political heavyweigh was watching Sumo wrestling last night and thought of you, Helmut" is the last straw in the world's perception of its larger participants.

Now This New Year's Eve the number of people who overdid it and were admitted to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary increased by 20 per cent. In Los Angeles a fatness lobby has been formed, adding another minority concern to the growing list. And we did not get healthier through the Eighties. Obesity among the adult population rose by 50 per cent. Imported capitalist neuroses have made us worse. But if you're worried about your weight, it's nice to think there's some who would welcome being in your position. Like the \$00 million people starving to death in the rest of the world.

James Aufenast

Backgammon Chris Bray

Knowing when to double is probably the most difficult aspect of backgammon. To try to give some guidance on this topic I am going to introduce you to "Woolsey's Law". (Kit Woolsey is an American backgammon master and leading theoretician.)

The key to Woolsey's Law is to realise that there are three possible answers to the question: "If I double, is it a take for my opponent?" They are: 1. Yes, I'm absolutely sure it is a take.

2. No. I'm absolutely sure it is a pass.

3. I'm not 100 per cent sure. Ignoring the first two categories for now. Woolsey's Law of Doubling states: "If the answer falls into category (3) then it is always correct to double." Let's see why the rule works:

Maybe the position is a pass. If you have failed to turn the cube when your opponent's correct action is to pass, then you may cost yourself considerable

Perhaps your opponent will think it is a pass. Backgammon is largely a matter of judgement and your opponent's evaluation may be radically different from your own. Most players are pessimistic about a position when they are losing and often pass when taking is the theoretically correct action.

Maybe it is a correct double and a correct take. The majority of early game doubles are also takes and therefore your action is likely to be correct.

The worst case is if your double is incorrect and your opponent correctly takes. This is unfortunate but by no means the end of the world. Unless you have completely mis-evaluated the position you are likely to have an edge and be the favourite. You have forfeited future use of the cube to your opponent but you are playing for doubled stakes with an advantage - how bad can that be?

When Woolsey first discovered this law and began applying it he saw a tremendous improvement in his results. He began winning doubled games and gammons where previously he had been waiting too long and only collecting single points, so he was winning approximately the same number of games but his equity per game increased dramatically.

Doubling theory is the most complex area of the game but the application of Woolsey's Law can make life a little bit easier - it also leads to games with high

I shall give a practical example of all this in my

concise crossword



ACROSS

- Greenmantle author (6) Approaches (5) Words of song (5) Set free (7) 10 Counsels (7) 11 Canvas shelter (4) 12 Witnessed (3)
- 14 Ruin (4) 15 Thames at Oxford (4) 18 Edge (3) 21 Wind instrument (4)
- 23 In general (7) 25 Of no avail (7) 26 Banish (5) 27 German city (5) 28 State confidently (6)

DOWN

- Spanish port (6) Mobile home (7) Forebear (8) African river (4) Proverb (5) Detective (6) Informer (5) Radio (8) Fancy (7) 17 Book (6) 19 Damp (5) 20 Able to speak language casily (6)
- 22 Begins (5) 24 Blood vessel (4)

Bridge Alan Hiron

N-S (Game; dealer Wes North ◆AK 10 9 7 4 ♡K 10 ◇J 5
	♦ A K J
West	East
♦ J32	♦ Q865
₹9865	
0642	♦AK9
♣ 97	♦ 1052
1	South
1	♠ none
1	♥Q742
l	0 Q 10 7 3
	♦ Q8643

What would be your reaction if, as North on this deal, you heard your partner remove your penalty double of an opponent's contract of Two Spades? Mixed, I dare

say.
The hand came up in the 1996
Lederer Memorial Trophy which saw the London team winning comfortably. Their opponents here were the Premier League winners who represented Britain in the recent Olympiad. The Hackett twins, Jason and Justin. had an unopposed auction to end in Four Spades - a contract which was casily defeated.

The real action came at the other table. Brian Callaghan, as North, opened with a strong club

and Paul Hackett overcalled with Two Clubs, conventionally showing length in spades and diamonds. With scattered values. David Burn, as South, doubled and after two passes, East retreated to Two Diamonds. Burn doubled again and Ian Monachan, as West, tried Two Spades. North felt that he was on fairly firm ground in doubling this, but South had other ideas

and cuc-bid Three Spades.

With what he later described

as "a fair guard" in spades, North reluctantly bid Three Notrumps, which ended the bidding. Oddly enough, it was all for the best. Consider: nine tricks in notrumps proved extremely easy and the Londoners scored 600 points. But what about the possible defence to Two Spades? The defenders cannot conveniently play trumps: if they do, declarer makes two tricks in the suit to go with his three red suit winners while, if they do not touch trumps, East can come to a club ruff in dummy. In other words, a penalty of 500 points would be the maximum so, whatever North may have thought at the time, perhaps South's judgement was not quite as bad as it may have seemed

Perplexity competition results

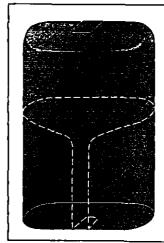
14 December competition: Answers: Christmas (arch + mists) Pantomime (optima + men) Cinderella (line + cradle) Winner: Mrs Carol Franklin (Ilford, Essex). 21 December competition;

Ebenezer Scrooge. Winner: Mrs Violet Holmes (Merseyside).

The usual Perplexity competition will return next week, when we shall be announcing more winners Answers: A Christmas Carol, of pre-Christmas competitions.

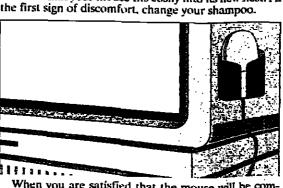
Don't junk it ... use it Digital mousetraps and no dandruff

Does your mouse get lost under piles of paper on your desk? Do its movements become erratic as it picks up



pieces of fluff? Do vou suffer from dry, lifeless hair? Don't worry! You can solve all the problems at once with the shampoo-bottle computer mouse-pouch. First select a brand of shampoo appropriate to your hair and mouse, more particularly the latter. (Fat mice require fatter bottles.) Wash hair well, repeating as necessary until bottle is empty. Rinse the bottle

thoroughly, then. using a strong pair of scissors or Stanley knife, cut along the dotted lines. Discard the portion that includes the top of the bottle. Check that your mouse fits cosily into its new nest. At



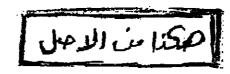
When you are satisfied that the mouse will be comfortable, fix the newly-made mouse park to the side of your computer with double-sided sticky tape or two pieces of Velcro. Tuck your mouse away tidily, with its tail hanging through the slit.

Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh

The Independe

next wee

TURN TO PAGE 23... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio and Kerber's new cartoon strip



interview

I he Prince of Order

Christopher Lee has 'one foot in the grave, one on a banana skin'. But he's still alive and singing, he tells Janie Lawrence

I was going to meet Christo-pher Lee. The Christopher Lee. But am I? I mention this to friends and begin to wonder.

After the umpteenth, "Oh, is he still alive?", I feel I have to double-check with the publicist.

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No, there is no mistake. Yes, it is eyes? Yes, yes. Count Dracula, Lord of the Undead? Absolutely.

Reassured that Mr Lee is still with us I discover that it's not only a puzzled public who have prematurely written him off. According to an American Encyclopedia of film, he popped his clogs three years ago.

Oh yes, I've died - on the 31st of March, 1993," the man himself says unperturbed. "I heard about it when somebody wrote to me saying that I wasn't doing too badly - considering. I was told to sue them but I didn't want to get involved in American litigation.

We are in a drawing room in one of those small chi-chi hotels just off Sloane Square, a stone's throw from Mr Lee's own home. A towering figure with ramrod posture, this is a man very much alive. Mr Lee has what they call in the "biz", presence. Bucketfuls of it. When he speaks every word is made to count. Each inflection is delivered with military precision. Not a vowel wasted. Currently bearded, the actor looks a good 10 years younger than 74, is vastly more attractive than I've imagined and, happily to report, appears to be in fine fettle. Unfortunately, I'm not. Desperately sneezing and mid flu I have attempted to postpone the interview. He's understandably annoyed that the message hasn't reached him. "I would have said, 'Keep away from me', " he booms. "Supposing I was Pavarotti." Feebly I venture that I'm probably no longer contagious. "You mean to splutter quietly and conceal the mounting pile of discarded tissues in my handbag. Mr Lee doesn't suffer fools gladly. He tells me so.

Thankfully I don't need to say much. Christopher Lee needs the minimum of encouragement to talk. About this I have been forewarned. There is the now legendary tale that one woman fainted at a table next to him in a Hollywood restaurant and still talking he never noticed. Almost definitely apocryphal, it's not hard to imagine how such a story came to pass.

An actor - note the stressed or he has an opinion on almost anything and segues seamlessly from one topic to another. He is also delightfully unencumbered by anything approaching political correctness. Discipline, duty and responsibility are words that frequently arise. And, albeit I am in my mid-thirties, I am nevertheless "the girl who shouldn't have got out of bed".

The reason I have, is to hear about his new project - the BBC-six part adaptation of Sir Walter Scott's hanhoe (which begins on Sunday, 12 January) - in which he plays the Grand Master of the Knights Templar, Lucas de Beaumanoir. He was already a big fan of the story before filming. "It's a great saga, a classic with everything in it. Honour, loy-

alty, bravery."
Co-starring Ciaran Hinds and Steven Waddington, he declares he was by far and away the oldest member of the cast. "They were all so young. So to them I must have seemed one foot in the grave, the other on a banana skin." Did that make him at all nervous?

"Nervous," he repeats in a tone reminiscent of the Wildean "Handbag". "Nervous, about what? I've tried in the last few years to work with up and coming young people. I think it's one's duty to do that if you can. And I was very impressed, which doesn't happen very often. You get a feeling when you get into some things - certainly after the length of time I've been involved - whether something's going to work."
Filming took place in Northum-

berland, where, he claims, the weather was colder than anywhere he's ever been, "including Alaska". Nevertheless, the role of Beaumanoir is one he relished playing. "All members of the Order are terrified of him because they are well aware that he can order their instant execution in minutes if they've stepped over the line. He has more power than any king or even the Pope. He orders one of the abbots to be lashed just like that." He demonstrates with an unexpected whistle. And then repeats the line slowly, melodramatically. "Just-like-that."

He's a religious fanatic. Probably a virgin, probably terribly repressed."

Being frightening has been Mr Lee's career stock in trade. Does he consider himself similarly intimidating? I, for one, could never imagine him being the type of elderly gentleman who lends himself to having his hair ruffled by exuberant children. "A lot of people think I'm aloof but that's not the case. I give he. Sunken cheekbones, penetrating that impression because I don't fling my arms around someone within five minutes of meeting them. But people aren't scared of me." Evidently I look dubious. "No, they really aren't you know. Children have always looked at me as the wicked uncle." With what he says are "over 250

credits" in films, it's widely reported that Mr Lee gets a bit miffed when people insist on harking back to his years in the Hammer Horror films. So I expect an unfavourable reaction when I allude to them. But more resigned rather than put out he asks, "How many do you think I've done?" It's a rhetorical question and he continues, "I'd say between 10 and 15, no more. You can't count Fu Manchu films as horror." As for the number of occasions he put in Dracula's fangs, he professes he really can't remember. "About six I think. But the last time was 25 years ago."

By that stage he says he'd "had enough" of the Prince of Darkness. "I made it very clear that the whole presentation of the character had gone completely to pot. So I said, never again. Not unless they made Stoker's book. Only then if someone did Stoker's book exactly, and I emphasise exactly, as he wrote it. It's never been done." It was to escape this typecasting that he packed his bags and spent 10 years in Los Angeles, returning to London in 1986. "Professionally, without doubt, it was the most important thing I ever did. And, without doubt, it had to be done. And without doubt, I proved my point. People said to me, If you stay in Britain you'll make a very good living but you'll never be asked to do anything else. You'll always be in roughly the same kind of film. And eventually you'll get bored and frustrated. And, of course, if you get bored you're going to bore the audience.' "The Americans, on the other

hand, will always give you one chance. Where the British are inclined to say, You have got a, you have got b, but you haven't got c, the Americans say, 'we're going to use what you have got'."

It is evidently a source of some pride to him that he was offered roles that proved he was capable of far more than sinking his teeth into young maidens' necks. "Half of what I did in 10 years was comedy. It's on the screen. I hosted Saturday Night Live with John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd. And how did it do? It was the third highest-rated show they ever had. I did westerns, I played Americans in American films, in one, Serial, I was a tough businessman in the week and at weekends the head of a band of gay Hell's Angels."

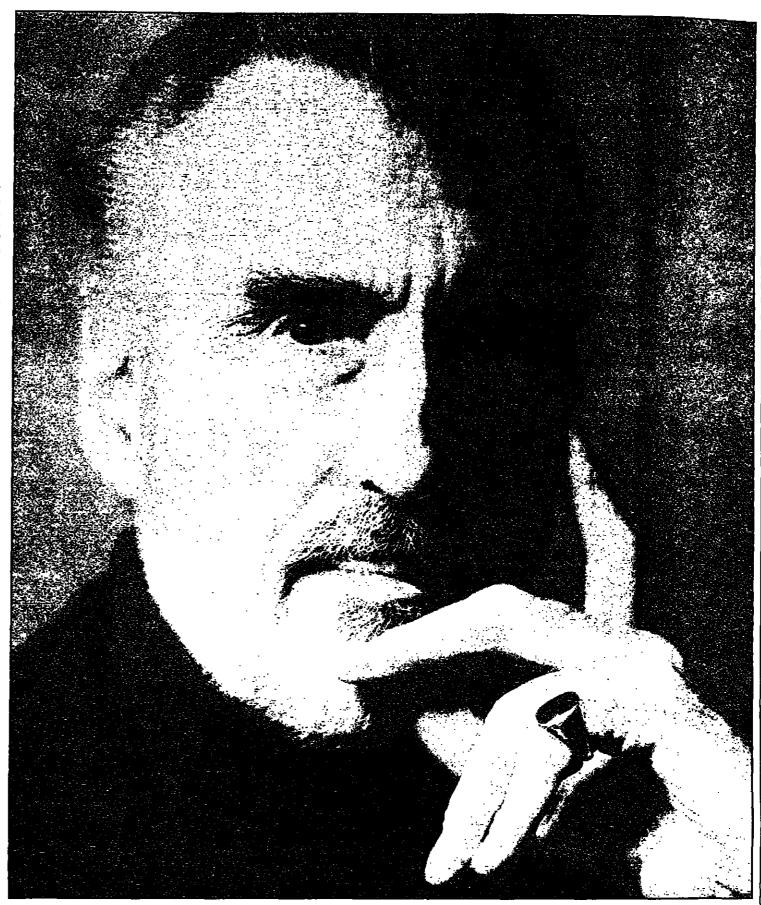
The briefest of pauses. "Do you think I'd have been offered that here?" he thunders. "Not in a millennium," his voice roars to a crescendo. "And, if you were to ask people here what I did for the 10 years I was in America I'm sure they'd look absolutely blank."

He sounds resentful. "No, not in the least," he denies. "I realise people's imaginations are limited. I was frustrated. I'm not particularly tolerant of stupidity or people who don't do their homework.

He returned to Britain satisfied that he had achieved what he set out to "and because I'm a European and I wanted to return to my roots". That said, he is very much a product of his generation and sees little about contemporary Britain to be proud of. "I didn't get married until I was nearly 40 because I couldn't afford it. If you can't support a wife and family you have no right to get married, in my opinion. Today people make an awful lot of fuss about their rights but what about their responsibilities?"

He's all for the return of National Service for the young, despairs of the way he believes justice is weighted towards the criminal rather than the victim, and cites the number of homeless as "deplorable".

"There's a lack of discipline, a lack of manners. A total decline in behaviour and morals. It's all gone downbill. Who opens a door for a woman? Who takes a hat off if they're wearing one? I've no objection to saying to someone, 'I think you've dropped this [litter]', but then you get a stream of abuse. Abuse is the refuge of the incoher-



Christopher Lee: 'Children always treat me as the wicked uncle.' Below, as the Grand Master in 'Ivanhoe'

ent. And you never get any support." On many such occasions he says he has been tempted to "belt" someone. In fact, not so long ago he did. Not a wise move, I venture. "My hands still move very fast," he fires back. "And I learnt a lot of extremely unpleasant things during the war so I know what to do."

The son of an Italian countess he can theoretically use the title Count Carandini - and a British soldier - his parents divorced when he was a child. When his stepfather ran out of money he had to leave school, Wellington, whereupon, at 16, he got his first job as a messenger boy for £1 a week. Soon after he volunteered for duty and trained as a pilot for the RAF, but as he had some

guished service, I think it's for one particular thing in Sicily, but that's why I won't say, because I'm not sure." After the war he began his career in films. "I lived in a bedsit off Sloane Square until 1955. Every day I'd take the Tube to Uxbridge and then the bus to Pinewood. I went to bed at 9pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. I've never missed a day in 50 years."

There are few big names that Lee hasn't worked with. He rates Billy Wilder, director of The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes, as "one of the greatest ever". And, among actresses, he won't hear a word said against Joan Collins with whom he

makes a dismissive sound. "I was the Woody Allen films? He hasn't mentioned in dispatches for distin- seen any. He is most likely to go to a film if it features the work of a specific actor. He has huge respect for Gene Hackman and has been impressed by Tom Cruise in Rainman and Chris O'Donnell. And women? He ponders.

"Katharine Hepburn is a real star. Magic. Magic. Anne Bancroft. The young? - two really. Jodie Foster and Michelle Pfeiffer." As for British actresses - "I've seen Emma Thompson only once" - he can't think of any.

"Now it's all. I want to be rich and famous in five minutes. I'm going to walk in front of the camera when I feel like it. I might say a line or two. Hey, didn't you read in the paper

'I can tell you exactly how long a shelf-life an actor or actress has. I have been proved right every single time'

that I was next week's superstar. Well, I've seen them all come. I've seen them all go. I can tell you exactly how long a shelf-life an actor or actress has. I've been proved right practically every single time. They can fool the public but they can't fool us."

Looking back over his own career, he admits that he does have one great regret, "That I didn't have a musical career. As a conductor or soloist but mainly as a singer. I was given this talent and I never really used it." That said, he has just made Funeral? No, he hasn't seen it. Or, a record. An eclectic mix of jazz.

opera and western cowboy songs, he sings in German, French, Italian and English. "I know it sounds terribly immodest but I have actually created music history. Because nobody of 74 who can't read music and isn't a trained opera singer has made a record of these songs. And every single one of the voices I use on these songs is different." He shrugs at the inevitability of the album title - Christopher Lee sings Rogues,

PHOTO: ANDREW BUURMAN

Demons and Villains. All in all, he reckons he's "damned lucky to still be here". Eleven years ago he had heart surgery to mend a faulty valve. Consequently, he no longer eats all the sweet things he loved and has finally given up smoking his pipe.

Meanwhile, old friends of his now have legitimate posthumous entries in film encyclopedias. "God, yes, I hardly dare open the paper now. Apart from people in the same pro-fession, there's all the people I knew

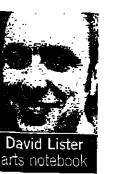
in the war. Most of them are dead." Of course, this includes both his Hammer co-stars. Peter Cushing and Vincent Price. It's the only time in two hours his shoulders visibly droop. "They were both very dear friends and I miss them both very much. Especially Peter. He was a wonderful man and I was devoted to him. I miss all the conversations I used to have with him on the telephone that were very special to us. There were certain things we used to laugh about that would have meant nothing to anyone else. And now there's nobody in the world with whom I can have those conversations. "He fought the cancer for 10 years

- he was immensely brave. A few months before he died we did some work together for a voiceover. The last thing I remember was him waving out of a car after we'd finished." This year he will have been mar-

ried to his Danish wife, Gitte, for 35 years and he reckons his 33-year-old daughter. Christina will probably get married. "Perhaps I'll be a grandfather one day although it's a bit late actually to be a grandfather."

As for himself, he categorically states he has no intention whatsoever of taking it easy and spending more time on the golf course, his great passion. Fluent in three languages - French, Italian and German - and passable in another two, he often works abroad and is generally recognised and pursued by autograph-hunters wherever

"It's very simple. I'm a working actor and I'll never retire."



This week Waterstone's and Virgin announced an exclusive deal with publishers Pimlico to re-publish a onevolume edition of John Lennon's Goonish Sixties books *In His Own Write* and A Spaniard in the Works. It was these two collections of surreal stories, poems and drawings that established Lennon's reputation as the literary Beatle, Reading through the republished edition, Lennon's analysis of Harold Wilson's victory in 1964 seems as fresh as ever. "Azue orl gnome, Harassed Wilsod won the General Erection, with a very small marjorie over the Torchies. Thus pudding the Laboring Partly back into powell after a large abcess. This he could not have done withoutspan the barking of thee Trade Onions... Sir Alice Doubtless Whom was quote 'bitherly disappointed' but managed to keep smirking on his 500,000 acre estate in Scotland..." Let's hope that Tony Blair has a chronicler among the Britpop bands to rival that. But it's pretty doubtful. Even among the wide range of political satirists and TV comedy programmes few, if any, are as inclined as Lennon was to play language games. It's a slice of humour that has sadly disappeared.

There is a startling new array of definitions in the upcoming edition of the Collins Dictionary, Totty has changed from being a Scottish word for tiny to British informal: women collectively considered as sexual objects". Music seems to have spawned a disproportionate amount of changes to the English language. Jarvis Cocker's song about Es and Whizz must claim some of the credit for the definition of humming or a skilful person, now officially recognised as a slang word for amphetamine. Wallpaper, formerly, well, wallpaper, is now "something pleasant but bland serving as unobtrusive background eg guitar rock wallpaper". And handbag is now "a commercial style of house music [from an allusion to women dancing round their handbags in discos]". So if you hear someone remarking on the totty dancing to the wallpaper as if it were handbag, they've either swallowed too many whizz or the dictionary.

One Lottery application that I wish every success is that being planned by West End producer Duncan Weldon, whose out-of-town activity also sees him as director of the Chichester Festival Theatre. Mr Weldon wants a new £7m theatre at the Chichester complex to add to the two theatres already there. The addition of a third theatre would change Chichester from a summer festival venue to an all-yearround producing venue. A new 800-seater theatre would help Chichester attract West End and Broadway transfers. At present too few touring shows are suited to the main house, which has a thrust stage. I foresee a problem as the new theatre would need a fly tower, which might obscure views of Chichester Cathedral: but it should not be an insurmountable design problem. And expanding this south-coast complex ~ once the summer venue for Olivier's National theatre so that it is once more a key theatrical venue would be lottery money well spent.

The Hollywood star Jessica Lange brought a touch of California to the opening of A Streetcar Named Desire in which she starred as Blanche Dubois this week, but in an unexpected location. The ushers at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, guided us in announcing: "Stalls downstairs, bathrooms are to your right." I'm all for doing everything possible to make American tourists welcome in theatreland. I would defend allowing their film stars to play lead roles on the West End stage. But there are limits. Leave us our lavatories.



trouble with his eyesight he was drafted into Intelligence and the Special Forces. "About which I'm not really prepared to talk. It's an unwritten code that you don't discuss certain things."

Various attempts to ferret out something more specific are fruitless. "If you work in Special Forces that inevitably means you're involved in secret operations. It doesn't mean to say that I was a spy with the French Resistance in Paris. Can you see me at 6ft 4ins being

But wasn't he decorated? He

starred in Dark Places. "Joan is a jolly good actress. It's not just hot air like it is with a lot of others. She works and she knows what she's doing."

So what modern films might he call fantastic? He looks bemused. "Is that too strong a word?" I ask, feeling like a schoolgirl who's just used some inappropriately hip slang. "Good, I would think, is the word," he replies steadily. "I don't go to the cinema very often because there's hardly anything, in my opinion, worth seeing."

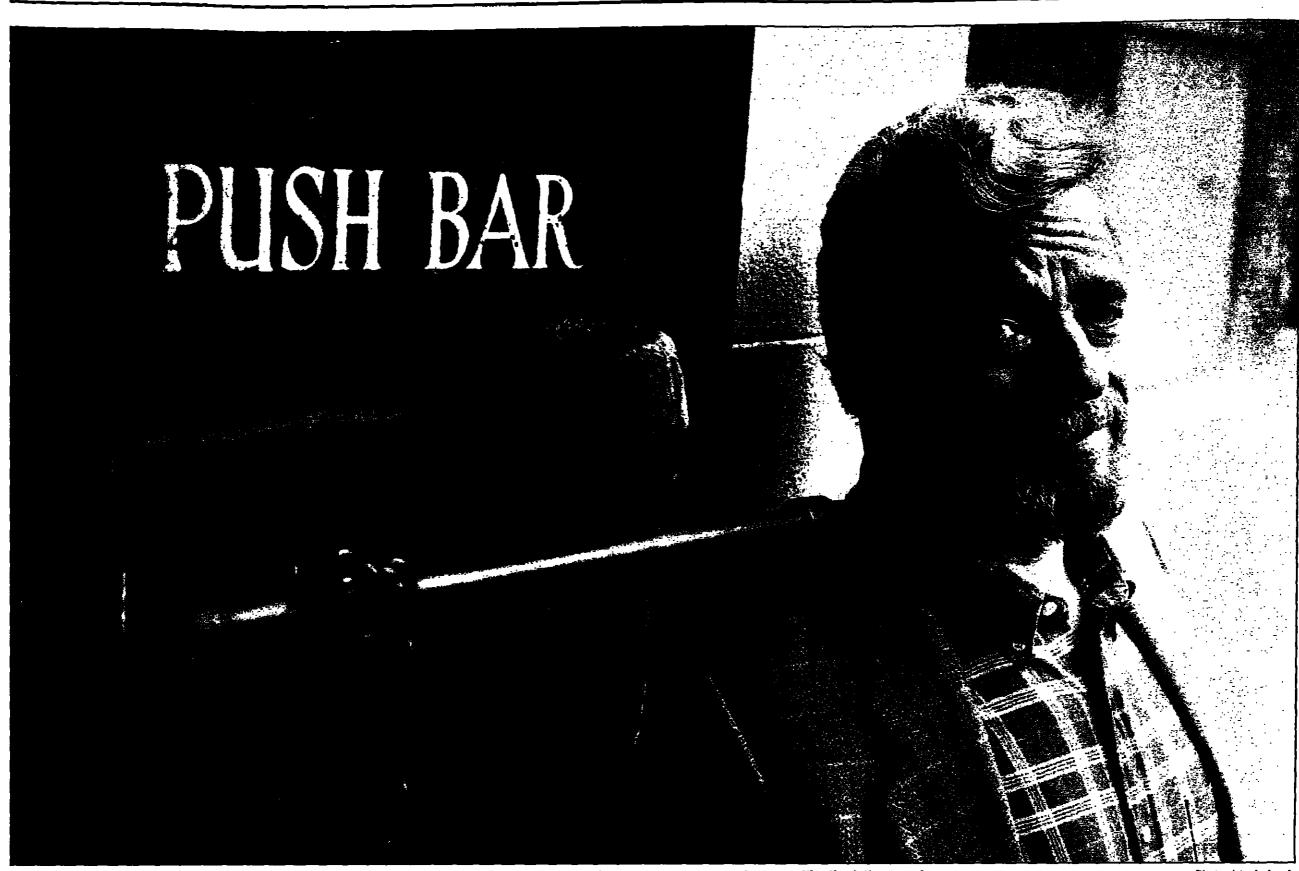
What about Four Weddings and a

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JOHN WALSH IS ON HOLIDAY

arts & books

Lisa Jardine: we're not that dumb; Roy Porter on strange science.....6 Make a din for libraries: the Demos effect.........7



Opening doors: 'I wouldn't presume to produce my own libretto. But also I like having someone to argue with, someone to question the songs. It's stimulating to me'

Photo: Laurie Lewis

company

Stephen Sondheim won't do interviews. Or present radio programmes. So what's this? Speaking on Radio 2 on Tuesday and talking to Edward Seckerson from his New York home? It'll never happen

n empty office somewhere in Broadcasting House. A desk, a chair, a telephone. It's 4.29 pm. The telephone should ring now. Soon. Later? When is later? Wait. It's quiet, it's positively Kafkaesque. It's ringing. I half-expect someone to say "It's for you". I want someone to say "it's for you". dammit. But I know it's for me. I've known for the best part of a week now. "Hi, Edward. If the BBC's paying, call me back." It's 4.30, it must be Stephen Sondheim. And he'd probably make a better job of this opening scene than I have.

So what's he doing at the end of a telephone on the very day he moves back into his fire-damaged New York home? What am I doing? I don't do telephone interviews. He doesn't do interviews.
Period. And nor does he present radio programmes. The plot thickens. This Tuesday on BBC Radio 2 a six-part series entitled In Company with Sondheim takes to the airwaves. Sondheim's presenting debut. There has to be a good reason for that - a very good reason. There is. Producer Rachel Freck's new series is about young writers, work in progress, the Musical Theatre of tomorrow. The things Sondheim cares about. Enough to be interviewed about. Just.

He has, of course, been reshaping, redefining, reimagining the whole concept of "musicals" for longer than most of us have been enjoying them. He's Broadway's oldest, wisest, and most rebellious baby, still pushing at the boundaries of the form, still challenging our perceptions of that form, integrating text, music, and lyrics in ever more intriguing ways. His influence is incalculable. He's opened more doors than the faint-hearted could ever have slammed shut on him. And he's left them open for others to pass through. Actually, there's a Southeim number called "Opening Doors". (There usually is - a number, a line, a rhyme for all occasions.) This one's from Merrily We Roll .4long - my personal favourite among all his shows - and it reads and plays like the story of his life in just under seven minutes. Merrily runs backwards

on its head. But he would, wouldn't he? He's already shown us the future of musical theatre: we just need to work out how to get there. Telephone interviews are problematic at the best

in time. We know the outcome before we know

why. Typical of Sondheim to turn cause-and-effect

of times. No eye contact, no body language (Sondheim's body language - wired, like his material - speaks volumes). Just words. And intoword, and if he doesn't hear every word, you'll know: "could you repeat the last half of that sentence, please." It's unnerving. Let's just say that Sondheim is "interview wary", even among friends. The casual generalisations, the careless asides are smartly rebuffed, clarification instantly required. "I didn't say that, you said that." But then, he chooses his words very carefully - is it so much to ask that others do. too?

So here we are discussing the concept of seminar and workshop that gave rise to the BBC's "In Company" series, and I'm wondering how difficult it is to assess work that he has absolutely no affinity with. Whoops, I've chosen the wrong word. "I don't assess. I never assess work. I believe in the Socratic method. I ask questions, encourage, guide. I would doubt that I even used the words defining qualities like 'good', 'bad', or whatever, whereas I would say 'Is this what you intended?' or 'I don't understand this' or 'Is this clear to every-one in the class?' When Cameron Mackintosh and I set up our seminars in Oxford in 1990, we deliberately picked writers who represented all worlds. And I made it quite clear from the first day that there should be no sense of competition or rivalry, that this was a community effort, that everybody must speak their mind, question each other's work.

question their own work..."

It was in this spirit that the Mercury Workshop was founded in 1992. This is the only writer-based organisation in Britain dedicated to the development and presentation of new Musical Theatre, and Sondheim is its patron. It is hoped that the next generation of British musicals will spawn here among the 50 or so lyticists and composers who make up the membership. So where better for the BBC to go shopping? "In Company" focuses on the latest work of six writing teams. We cast off with composer George Stiles and lyricist Anthony Drewe (authors of the promising Just So) on their new musical version of JM Barrie's Peter Pan; then comes the composer and lyricist Richard Taylor with his remarkable Whistle Down the Wind (not to be confused with Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest confection), a show this writer has tirelessly (tiresomely?) champi-

oned. Sondheim had nothing to do with the choices, but sampled the scores (by way of specially recorded excerpts), made the introductions and asked the nation. Sondheim listens to - no scrutinises - every awkward questions. Some, relating to context, song placement and the like, that came up again and again. "For sure there are certain principles that I apply to everything in the way of songwriting for dramatic purposes. Ultimately I am much less concerned with whether I like something than whether I understand it. I believe it is our obligation as writers to make our work clear to an audience. Clarity is all-important. Clarity of diction in lyric writing. Clarity of intention. What is the play about? What is the song about? What are you trying to convey in terms of emotional colour? For me clarity and intelligibility are everything - everything is subor-

dinate to that." But clarity and intelligibility apart, what is it that audiences come to see, will pay dearly to see, have been conditioned to expect to see? The money. The glitz, the glamour, the technology, up there on stage. Sondheim knows better than most that we urgently need to capture a new and adventurous theatre audience from the grip of TV and film. Despite current New York hits such as Rent and Bring in 'Da Noise, commercial shows of some experimentation and quality that are encouraging because they appear to be bucking the trend, he is hardly optimistic (well, maybe hopefully pessimistic) about the future.

Which is not to say that we should stop trying. I think the answer may be in smaller theatres for smaller shows with smaller casts. I've been spending the past 15 years of my life writing just

such shows. And still is. Wise Guys - his latest collaboration with John Weidman (Pacific Overtures and Assassins) - is a project he's hung on to since he was 22. It's about the Mizner brothers - Addison, the architect who "invented Palm Beach", and Wilson, a con man and playwright, "our greatest wit after Dorothy Parker". Their lives happened to coincide with the birth and death of Vaudeville. He and Weidman hope to workshop the piece in the spring for a late summer opening in Washington. They have two producers but no director as yet. The writing began two years ago. But there have been interruptions. Which is why, says Sondheim, he is currently finding it so tough getting up to speed

again. "I find I can only work on one thing at a time, and I have to virtually eat, live, and breathe it. Meaning 24 hours a day, because I am a firm believer in the unconscious doing your work for you, and I think it is important going to sleep at night with nothing else on your mind but the show. because a lot of problems get solved in dreams."

Sondheim prefers to collaborate. Not on the

songs, whose music and lyrics he likes to shape simultaneously - though his early collaborations with Leonard Bernstein and Jule Styne proved seamless (have you ever wondered how West Side Story or Gypsy would have sounded with music by Stephen Sondheim?) - but on the book, the libretto. "It's such a difficult, specialised task. I wouldn't presume to produce my own libretto. But also I like having someone to argue with, someone to question the songs. It's stimulating to me." He means it. And he's ready to defer to his col-

laborators. When Cameron Mackintosh mounted Follies in London, he expressed concerns that the show was too bleak, too downbeat. And he found something of an ally in Sondheim's librettist, James Goldman, who thought it centred too much on the role of Ben Stone. So out went one of the best songs "The Road You Didn't Take" - and in came new ones. Now perhaps the most remarkable feature of Sondheim's art is his ability to find an individual musical voice for each show. You know it's Sondheim, but each score has its own distinct "tinta". Company is the musical embodiment of Seventies chic. Pacific Overtures seeks and finds purity in a kind of pentatonic haiku, only to succumb to the corrupting influence of Uncle Sam, Souza, and all; Into the Woods taps into the fairytale spirit of Disney; Assasins plunders the all-American songbook. As for Follies, a score so steeped in the Broadway sound of the Thirties and Forties that it manages at once to be both familiar and ever surprising, I boldly put to Sondheim that a number like "Country House", one of the more conspicuous additions to the London version, somehow didn't belong there. "You're absolutely right. It belongs more in a score like Company. I managed to get back into Follics by doing the pastiche stuff, but I had trouble getting back into the book songs because it had been so many years since..." Radio 2 get back into the original version for their all-star production next month. Just as it was, just as it should be.

One parting shot before I finally hang up the phone. And this is a touchy one. When people say Sondheim doesn't write tunes (nonsense, of course), what do they actually mean? I have a theory and it has to do with what can only be described as his "musical impatience". It goes with his restless, inquisitive personality. How could anyone capable of fashioning something as beautiful as the middle section of Every Day a Little Death" from A Little Night Music let it go so precipitously? Because it has a purpose (originally as the bridge section to a much larger form) and once

that purpose is fulfilled ... "Look, you like opera and I don't. In opera one lingers on moments, one savours the moment, indulges the moment" (it's true, can you imagine Sondheim's Liebestod?). "Well, I write musical theatre and I'm just as interested in the theatre part as in the music part. So I don't like to linger any longer than I think is necessary to make the point, to make the moment work..." And Sondheim moments are invariably short and sweet, sweet and sour, and unrepeatable. You grasp them or not, while you can. "Look, why do you think people came out of Act 1 of Night Music humming A Weekend in the Country'. Because they'd just had eight choruses of it! But that was the nature of the number. For years and years reprises were de rigueur in musicals. I remember Dick Rodgers asking for a reprise of one of the ballads we wrote for the first act of Do I Hear a Waltz? And I said that the same thought didn't occur in Act 2, so there was no good reason to reprise it ... Obviously a song does, by its own nature, repeat certain things, but there is a limit to the amount of repetition I want to hear of either idea or tone. Most songs stay on one idea and are static. I like to move the ideas along and get not just from point A to point B, but to points C, D, E, F and G as well." Is it any wonder that he's taken to introducing "Send in the Clowns" as "a medley of my hits"?
Of course, he'd like a hit, a smash hit. But, in the words of another song, "It's never gonna happen, in it's". is it?" Not so long as audiences insist upon checking their brains in at the cloakroom.

'In Company with Sondheim' begins this Tuesday at 10pm on Radio 2 R2's new production of 'Follies' will be broadcast on Sat 15 Feb at 7.30pm

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Don't blame it on the ballet

As the Royal Ballet's 'Cinderella' and the Kirov's 'Nutcracker' bow out today, Louise Levene reflects on two productions that, despite their star turns, never quite believe in their own magic

iyako Yoshida's combination of modest sweetness and sure classical technique made her an obvious choice for Frederick Ashton's Cinderella. The touchstone of his conception of Perrault's story is gentleness. This isn't a chronicle of child abuse within a dysfunctional family, nor is it an allegory of the proletarian struggle against a decadent bourgeoisie (whatever Prokofiev's occasionally sarcastic score might suggest). For Ashton, Cinderella is the universally intelligible story of a wallflower whose dreams of sartorial splendour and social success are realised in one short magical night. Reduced to this, the tale seems a tawdry one, but the choreographer contrives, through the character of Cinders her-self, to transcend bourgeois wish-fulfilment and create a story of wit, forbearance and the redemptive power of unselfish love. To pull this off, each meticulously drawn role must be enacted with total clarity, each relationship charted with scrupulous care. To be sure of our sympathy, Cinderella must show a satirical streak in her saucy parodies of the Ugly Sisters, but convey her filial devotion in the awkward tendernesses between herself and her father. It is these glimpses of the heroine beneath the rags in Act I that prepare us for the Prince's coup de foudre in the Ballroom.

Yoshida's Prince this season is Bruce Sansom. Neatly made, with boyish good looks and an exquisite line, he was born to dance Ashton's heroes. He acts too. In his exchanges with the Ugly Sisters (honey-roast ham from Messrs Page & Webb), his convincing air of dignity and courtesy mask a strong sense of the ridiculous. His duets with Yoshida are master-class material: he makes the long travelling lifts look painless and his eyes seldom leave his ballerina's face. The Prince's other big relationship is the curious bond between himself and the jester. Unhappily for Sansom, this role was danced by Tetsuya Kumakawa, who span and leapt fabulously but whose only relationship was, as always, with his public.

The Christmas trees may not come down until Monday but the Kirov Ballet's pink tinsel production of The Nutcracker will be put back in its tank of formaldehyde tonight after its 28th performance at the London Coliseum. Until relatively recently, the very thought of Russian hallet dancers live in captivity was enough to have ballet-fanciers and name-droppers queuing round the block on pointe, but increasing familiarity with the species has caused public enthusiasm to cool somewhat: there have been seats available for virtually every performance. Victor Hochhauser's



choice of programme may have been part of the Miyako Yoshida: modest sweetness and sure technique

problem: three weeks is a hell of a lot of Nutcracker and only crazy balletomanes and stircrazy critics bother to catch different casts. With a more varied schedule you stand a chance of getting some multiple bookings. Even the dancers look bored: stuck in the same roles night after night (presumably to save on extra wigs and costumes), they dance on auto-pilot and gossip visibly upstage. In July, the company returns with treats like Don Quinote, Giselle and The Firebird, plus some hoped-for guest appearances by Sylvie Guillem, which may all prove more inspiring for box-office and dancers alike. Stars always make a difference.

Anyone dragging themselves away from their turkey rissoles on Boxing Day in the hope of seeing New York City Ballet star Igor Zelensky before he becomes Darcey Bussell's guest partner in February would have been as disappointed as I was to see the words "Faroukh" and "Ruzimatov" typed in his place. Once possessed of a certain snorting appeal, this extremely handsome dancer has degenerated into a mannered pastiche of his former self. He was partnering Diana Vishneva, the archetypal Kirov ballenina of the Nineties: tall, svelte, technically assured and with all the warmth and originality of an After Eight mint.

The stock response to such criticism is to blame the ballet. Igor Zelensky has made it clear that it holds no particular interest for him: "It's for the children, not for the ballet dancers." With this production (and let's face it, many, many other productions), you can sympathise with such an attitude, but once a dancer starts to think like that, you can wave goodbye to a truly great performance. A classical dancer is required to believe six impossible things before breakfast. Asylmuratova and Mukhamedov inhabit such a wonderland and can move you to tears in scenarios as slight as the Nutcracker. In this ballet, Zelensky moves us only to applause. He wasn't bad, though. On Wednesday night, his partnering was a little over-anxious here and there - an occupational hazard when you're scheduled to dance with a different girl every day of the week. But his powerful jump, his meticulous landings and his altogether rather meaty classicism were a welcome sight. Roll on February. Final performances today: Knov 'Nutcracker', 2.30pm, 7.30pm London Coliseum, WC2 (0171-632 8300): Royal Ballet 'Cinderella' 12 noon, Photo: Bill Cooper ROH, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000)

wase of flower

A suitable case for treatment

Chloe Poems Healing Roadshow Battersea Arts Centre, London

t the end of her Healing Road-A show. Chioe rooms amount that there has been, let's face it, precious little in the way of healing. That was just a gimmick to get you to come," she explains, smiling sweetly and launching into a collective aurathe company of a gay, socialist, transcan probably do without the actual laying on of hands, especially once they've learnt where the mitts of this "welloiled cog in the wheel of life" have wandered. It's just a shame that the material Poems slips in by way of curative alternative - to show she's no mere novelty item, no panto dame with a dif-

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That material, initially, is ginghambased, a "a fabric made sacred by The Little House on the Prairie", we are told. It provided the psychological trigger that caused her to shrug off her masculine Tory alter-ego (Paddy Field, MP for the Wirral Penninsuaudit. For many people, an evening in lar). Its inherent socialism (the interdepending strands) will help Poems vestite poet is, in itself, an event. They on her mission "to make the world a better place". Here, it clothes her and adorns her throne. The opening mock-homage to its power is almost undiluted Dame Edna (although her creator, Jenni Potter, has far hairier forearms). Poems salivates in toothy delight, her alliterative hymn ("Watch it swoosh and swish and

("It's here, it's queer and it's not Almost As If Hitler Won": "Oh, such God and society for "the evils of masgoing to be made into net curtains"). Unfortunately, most of the show is taken up with Poems trying to prove that her rouge, unlike that of

After two rhythmic forays into the melancholy vales of gay clubland à la Pauline Calf – the first boasting the memorable shriek-after-me chorus: "Nothing's gonna stop us / Sniffin' our poppers", the second an accidental scat in a darkroom mistaken for a toilet - Poems gets on with her selfappointed task of repoliticising drag. First, she rounds on the apathy and body fascism of gay men, asking, in

a fine and structured face / Am I staring at the master race?" Then she sets about driving a stake through the heart of one of the drag queens of the poor impersonation of a stock-type female impersonator, delivering each non-pc line with an exaggerated hitch-

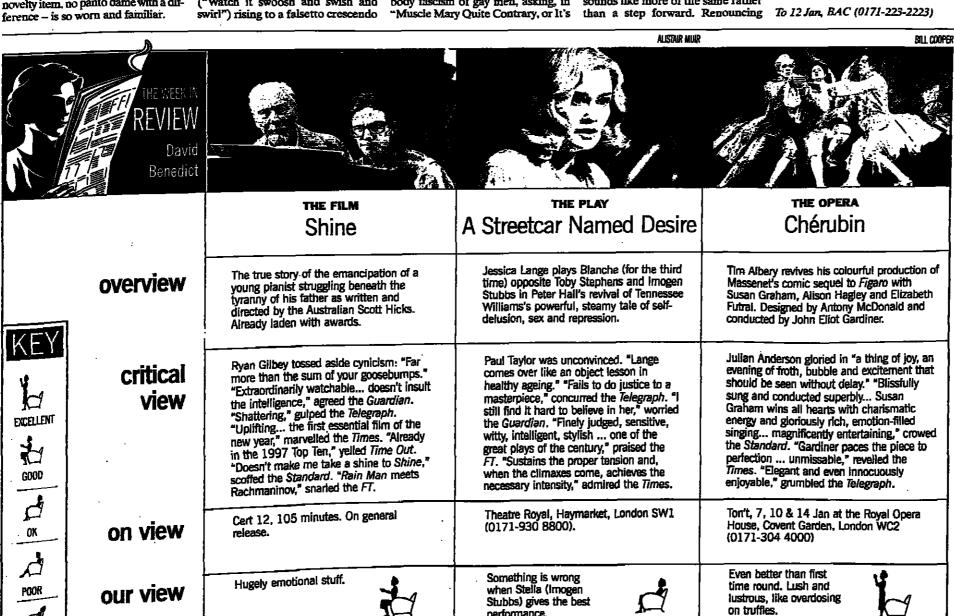
ing of falsies and hairpiece. Not only does all this feel as if it's being delivered to the wrong audience - a working men's club would surely be more of a challenge than the BAC - but its lack of subtlety means that Poems' pornographic finale sounds like more of the same rather

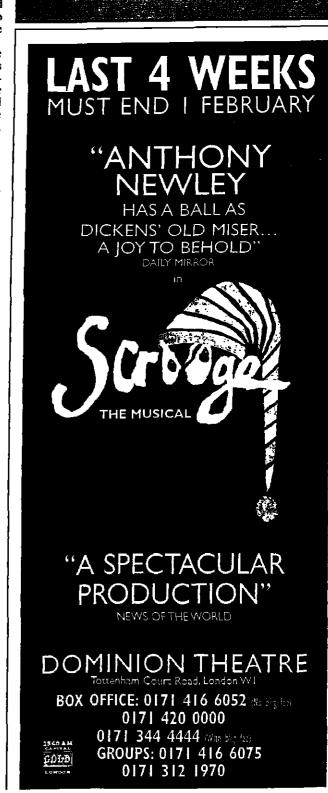
By Dominic Cavendish

culine embrace", the poet (or should that be poetaster?) resembles a child running amok in a wordsmithy, hammering at any rhyme that might send Humphries' housewife superstar, has a defiantly militant hue.

undead, "who refuse to see queer as a movement". This involves doing a high / We've touched the sky / We've even watched our friends die".

John Hegley, who pulled up at the same venue a few weeks ago with his squirting-my-nipples-at-my-brotherin-law routine is more subversive than this. With Hegley, the personal isn't political, it's just funny. Take away Chloe Poems' gingham frock, and what you're left with doesn't even raise an eyebrow.







Nostromo (1904) by Joseph Conrad

Plot: Sulaco is the wealthy province of Conrad's fictional South American republic. Costaguana. The money springs from the San Tomé silver mines, property of Charles Gould, an idealist paradoxically dedicated to "material interests".

Costaguana vibrates with civil unrest. Backed by the US, the legal government clings onto Sulaco: it is opposed by the populist demagogue Montero who wants to seize the province and its silver. Gould entrusts six months' silver production to Italian shop-steward Nostromo and the anti-Montero journalist Decoud. Nostromo is consumed by pride. Decoud by scepticism.

This pair escape at night in a lighter laden with treasure; crash into a troopship; reach a small island; bury the loot. Nostromo returns to Sulaco convinced that he has been exploited by his superiors; Decoud remains on the island and drowns himself using a couple of silver bars.

Nostromo helps to defeat the rebels but nothing ameliorates his bitterness. Courting the daughter of the island's lighthouse keeper, he gradually unearths the silver which the world believes lost. He grows rich ounce by ounce. One night be is mistaken for a thief; the lighthouse keeper shoots him. Gould continues to nurse the San Tomé mine, blindly unaware that his devotion brings destruction.

Theme: "There is no peace and no rest in the development of material interests. They have their law and their justice." Capitalism corrodes moral principle by promoting the myth of progress.

Revolutions are a sham: Costaguana is controlled by the mine, not the people. Individuals who seek redemption in heroism are merely flirting with a

Style: The narrative is unimaginably oblique. Flashbacks and digressions show history stupidly repeating itself. The prose is dry and sardonic with a thread of malice.

Chief strengths: The only English novel to compete in range and scale with War and Peace. Conrad demonstrates how intellectual, political and economic forces distort individuals and nations. He audaciously combines the sweep of 19th-century fiction with the impresionistic techniques of modernism.

Chief weaknesses: Conrad is prone to acute bouts of sentimentality, especially when female characters lurch into view; the control of dialogue is erratic because his colloquialisms sound manufactured.

What they thought of it then: Unsurprisingly, Nostromo failed to top the bestseller charts. In later years, Conrad recalled that, "with the public", the novel provoked "the blackest possible frost." Nonetheless, Arnold Bennett thought it the finest novel of his generation: "peerless, and there's no more to be said".

What we think of it now: Nostromo has just about survived Leavis's massive endorsement, remaining Conrad's masterpiece. Even so, it is admired rather than read. Conrad's grim asperity discourages the formation of

Responsible for: Paul Scott squeezing Forster's Passage to India through the Conradian mincer to produce the Raj Quarter; the new tele-serial, which should be able to borrow costume cast-offs from Rhodes.

Gavin Griffiths

NEW AUTHORS Publish Your Work All Subjects Considered iction, Non-Fiction, Stagraphy, Religious Poolty, Children 6 AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED VANTE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT T MINERVA PRESS 2 OLD BROMPTON PO. LONDON SW7 3DQ

Steamed up in a melting pot

Do clean shirts and cookbooks signal the decline of civilisation? Lisa Jardine thinks not

Dumbing Down: essays on the strip-mining of American culture cdited by Katharine Washburn and John F Thornton, WW Norton, £19.95

y father used to tell us a story about his first trip to New York in the learly 1950s. Walking around the city, dazzled by its architecture, and entranced by its postwar self-confidence and easy affluence, he happened to remark to his companion - a titled, aristocratic English woman - how amazed he was that every man they passed wore a freshly pressed shirt. "What do you find so surprising about that?" retorted the lady, Everyone wears a clean shirt in England, too." "No." countered my father, "In England everyone of your social class takes a daily clean shirt for granted. In this country, apparently, everybody is able to change

their shirt every day." Like that anonymous well-bred lady, the authors of the litany of US books and essays that currently lament the passing of high culture from the American scene also seem to me to be locked into the twilight world of traditional privilege. What makes their position sadder is that a number of those who maintain that American culture is sliding dangerously into decline under the weight of competing cultures and broadening artistic horizons are themselves second-generation Americans - people who have achieved their success within the generous embrace of the North American melting pot.

Two themes preoccupy the contributors to Katharine Washburn and John F Thornton's collection of essays, Dumbing Down. The first is that in every area of cultural life - from high art to cookery - the American public is fed a pap of reassuringly downmarket comfortably low-effort reading, viewing and listening material. This, they claim, is swiftly obliterating a long history of "good" art and literature, thereby chronically undermining an entire society. "American society, for some time fallen into disarray, has somehow begun sliding down a long, steep chute into nullity".

The second theme is that there exists an opportunistic body of unprincipled people within the American cultural establishment who flagrantly exploit fashionable requirements for "accessibility" for their own benefit, and thereby accelerate cultural disintegration. These are the people who are "cashing in on the decline of American culcollection its subtitle.

As Gerald Howard wrote in the Nation in 1993: "It seems to me that this nation's media elite — the people who make the deals, create the networks, conceive, write and produce the shows, the albums, the books - are well along in their own meretricious form of strip mining. They are stripping away what was already a shallow overlay of national taste and intelligence in an incredibly lucrative dive down-market."

Those who argue this essentially New Right position in Dumbing Down range from accomplished essayists like Cynthia Ozick and Joseph Epstein to frankly crass (and significantly poorly-informed) tub-thumpers like Sven Birkerts and Gilbert T Sewall. Freshness and originality are intriguingly lacking throughout, as opposed to the occasional brilliant turn of phrase and slickly seductive argument.

A significant number of pieces here have been recycled over and over again recently, in barely modified forms. And there is little sign of that "alternative agenda" for the "culture crisis" or rescue plan for American culture (as promised on the book's jacket) to counteract the relentless negativity of almost all the essays it contains.

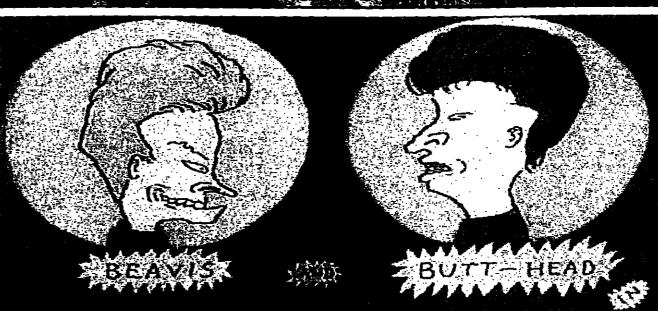
The "dumbing down" argument is at its silliest in pieces like Nahum Waxman's "Cooking dumb, eating dumb", in which the author seriously maintains that we have become a "recipe dependent" culture -unable to cook by our forebears "common sense" methods and natural understanding of local ingredients. Anyone who wants to sentimentalise my Auntie Sadie's leathery boiled beef, greying overcooked sprouts and soggy potatoes is welcome to, but please don't ask me to sympathise. Give me balsamic vinegar, roquette, sea bream or frangipane any day, even if I do have to read a book to find out how to serve them. The "anything goes" approach of cultural diversity may sometimes seem plausibly to lead, with a scary inevitability, into the murky waters of information overload - but not, surely, in the kitchen.

What is most disturbing about this collection, though, is its contributors' lack of respect for any knowledge outside that which they claim as "canonical" - a smug ignorance of the "non-traditional" subjects against which they fulminate. In "What to do about the Arts", Joseph Epstein argues that the underfunded National Endowment for the Arts in the US is in a state of collapse, as it presides over the cultural bankruptcy of an art scene tyrannised by the politics of race and gender. He writes with all the consummate skill we would expect of the editor of the American Scholar.

As an example of this politicised "skewing" of the arts, however, he tells a story of the Daily Telegraph telephoning him on the eve of President Clinton's inauguration to ask for an opinion on "the poet Maya Angelou", who had been chosen to read a had no opinion of Maya Angelou, that I had read only a few of her poems and thought these were of no great literary interest. I knew of no one who read her."

that these remarks betray straightforward ignorance of contemporary writing. Maya Angelou's reputation spans a broad range of literary forms, among which her autobiographical writings — including the classic I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings — are probably best known. We all, occasionally, have to own up as critics to not having read a particular writer of repute; only those complacently clinging to an unscrutinised









It does not bother Epstein in the least Symptoms of decline and fall? Beavis and Butthead, Dumb and Dumber, The Terminator and Independence Day

Great Books tradition would shrug off their cated philistines do in principle stand up for own limitations with that inattentive "I knew of no one who read her".

In their introduction, the only solution the editors propose for the impasse in which they believe American culture finds itself is to encourage the return of the "edu-

cated philistine": "At least, in their Puritanical way, educultural aspiration, for the well-shocked family bookshelf, the series tickets to the symphony, and they express their distaste for the mayhem which they never endorsed and for

which they never felt bound to apologize." So there you have it. The choice apparently lies between narrow-minded bigots who know what they are supposed to like,

and those with an open mind - the people who believe that the man-in-the-street's access to a daily clean shirt might also be a sign of a promising cultural future for us all.

Lisa Janline is Professor of English at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University. Her new history of the Renaissance. "Worldly Goods", is published by Macmillan.

Mind over matter

Roy Porter takes some detours on the road to truth

suggests, brain science confirms.

Hidden Histories of Science edited by Robert Silvers, Granta, £7.99

cience, they tell us, is hard, rig-Sorous and objective, yet the royal road to truth. But if we peer behind the myths, what do we find? What are the springs of creativity and how does science advance? Robert Silvers has set up a neat experiment by getting five top-flight science authors to put the propaganda to the test. An inspired hint is planted on the first page of the first essay, Jonathan Miller's delightfully punning Going Unconscious". The whole thing. he quotes a 19th-century authority as saying, was "a system of collusion and delusion, or an excited imagination, sympathy or imitation".

What the Manchester surgeon James Braid was referring to were demonstrations of mesmerism. But. without much exaggeration, his words might playfully be applied to science itself - at least the science here in question. For Miller's essay traces the tale of artificial trances and the study of them, from the animal magnetism pioneered by Dr Mesmer himself in 18th-century Vienna and Paris, through a succession of later operators who were part magician, part genius. Who was fooling whom with all that transferred suggestion? How could credulity be distinguished from creativity? It was all very puzzling right up to (and including) the ultimate version of the secret self disclosed by hypnotism: the

Freudian Unconscious. Science, Miller implies in his example of how a pseudo-scientific fad led in roundabout ways to

Most of the time the mind has a patchy awareness of what it's doing, and that applies no less to the revclations of genius than to Svengalilike high jinks at the pier's end. Along similar lines, Oliver Sacks suggests that the rise of neurology has also involved a somnabulist element. From the early 19th century, neuro-scientists kept blundering upon discoveries whose meaning and use they could not then know. Often these finds were squirreled away in the attic of the mind to be rediscovered only much later. Sacks

of scientific inertia. Conformism is a theme further developed by Richard Lewontin and Stephen Jay Gould, both of whom examine bias in science - how dominant models produce distorted images of how Nature must be and how science should be done. Lewontin castigates today's received wisdom that for the biological sciences to be truly scientific they must be reductionist like physics, which means in effect endorsing the "selfish gene" and the notion that all that really counts

hints at a tendency for the brain-

waves of creative individuals to be stifled by the collective constraints

in life is genetically inherited. Gould critically scrutinises the influential icon of Nature as a "ladder of life" rising from monad to man. In breathtakingly anthropocentric fashion, this myth assumes that man - or, by implication, the Caucasian male - is top of the evolutionary tree. In both ways modern psychology, may be like science may serve to shore up prej-sleepwalking. And what history udice and political values.

It is left to the historian of science on the team, Daniel Kevles, to put flesh on these controversial bones. Taking modern cancer research, Kevles examines the fate of the theory first advanced by the American Peyton Rous at the beginning of this century: that tumours can be caused by viruses. Each of the pioneers in this story encountered stiff resistance among his peers. First it was denied that tumours could be so caused. Later, after Crick and Watson, it was denied that RNA could generate DNA. Finally, experimenters were derided for suggesting that oncogenes in animal tumouts could have anything to do with human cancer. Yet in the end all those convictions came to prevail.

If here we encounter scientific blindness, we also see professional courage and persistence - and a research system ultimately tolerant enough to permit deviant ideas to survive and thrive. Rous was finally awarded a Nobel Prize - at the age of 85! One unexpected benefit from this research trail was the discovery of retroviruses, thus enabling us to solve the mystery of

Overall, this book may incinerate a few sacred cows and cut science down to size. But by being thus humanised, and shown to have close affinities with the wider life of the mind, scientific discovery is rendered all the more remarkable. "Excited imagination" may not be a good epithet for science; but what is beyond doubt is that these fine essays will certainly excite the imagination.

Beyond the fragments

Michael Rosen seeks a story in a tantalising memoir

flickerbook: an autobiography by Leila Berg, Granta, £15.99

cuddling children while reading them books fostered literacy. Indeed, the Leila Berg who appeared in public view in the sixties and seventies was full of outrageous suggestions.

In 1968, she made Janet and John own up to their politics. Her own reading scheme, "Nippers", was the first to put early words into the mouths of working-class children and their families.

She got some flak for being vulgar and patronising, but we owe it to Leila Berg that publishers began to take scriously the idea that all children have the right to see their own lives depicted in books. That same year, 1968, she wrote

the post-mortem account of Risinghill Comprehensive School in Kings Cross, London. Nearly 30 years on, you can still turn up at parties and find people snapping at each other about it. When Tory ministers rail against the terrible "progressives" in education of the past, then Leila Berg and the Risinghill head teacher Michael Duane are always in their Rogues'

In flickerbook, she has turned to memoir. The style is more James Joyce than Gerard Durrell, as the text begins with glimpses, sensa-tions, misunderstandings and queries. Even by the end, with the outbreak of the second world war and Berg aged around 20, she is still telling her tale in episodes and

As the little preface reminds us. her kind drink baby's blood. (A feel it.

sion of a moving picture." So this autobiography is even more shad-

owy than most. Aunts and uncles appear unannounced; one of them has written play that will be acted in by Svbil Thorndike. Even some family acquaintances of mine put in a fleeting appearance - sadly, a bit too briefly to satisfy. Leila Berg's father spends most of the book glaring and scowling at her. The only reason offered to us is someone explaining to young Leila that she had a baby brother who died. So we have to do quite a bit of our

own surmising in this book. The setting for most of it is Salford, but not the Salford of Albert Finney. This is Jewish Salford, with Hebrew Class outings, Bobbie Goller's barrels of pickled herrings in the sitting room, and Yiddish used as a code beyond the

reach of the children. The family's destiny is on the up: the unfriendly father has gone from being a teacher to a doctor. Coinciding with Leila's scholar-ship to Manchester High School. the family moves into a larger

house in a posher area. Berg shows herself as a curious but unsatisfied child. No one explains what's going on. When her mother squashes a flea on the bedsheet, young Leila thinks that a flea is the black smudge left behind afterwards. Harold Lloyd becomes

something medical: a "haroloid". She is told by school friends that

n Reading and Loving, children's a "flickerbook" is "a series of author Leila Berg made the outrageous suggestion that parents is flicked through, you get the illumonths ago, coming from two months ago, coming from two young black Christian fundamentalists.) When one of Leila's school friend has a pen-pal in Germany (after 1933), there is a well-meant flutter and scare but no one thinks things are worth explaining in full to these children. As we flick through these episodes, we can perhaps feel here the guiding hand of Leila Berg, giving us a "moving pic-ture": her coherent stance on chil-

dren's liberation.
Through 1934 to 1936 she becomes a more political and sex-ual creature. She responds to events in Germany and to het older brother's friends as they-come back from Cambridge University. In fact, there is a touch of Wilhelm Reich's sexual political

running through the book.
It begins with Leila as an infant finding a pleasant place between her legs, through to her having several lovers among the comrades in the Communist Party. Two of them die in Spain while others - rather absurdly, she suggests - propose marriage almost immediately after

the first bonk. It's a sensual, musing account, that often suggests rather than reports. Yet each flick of the page find. Leila Berg claiming things for her own; her sexuality, her right to question her parents, or not to be directed along their tramlines, or in talk the way she wants to, or to learn what she wants. I'm not quite sure that we ever find out exactly why she is like this, but we certainly

hortly before the third Thatcher government took a scalpel to the

NHS, I interviewed a young thinker at the Centre for Policy Studies. Quick of mind and glib of tongue, he waxed lyrical

about patient choice and inter-

nal markets. Half-convinced, I

watched his ascent with inter-

est. And rise he did - though

anyone who pens self-incrimi-

nating memos when they bend

the rules probably deserves the nickname "No Brains".

As David Willetts' fate con-

firms, policy intellectuals in

Britain often flake when they

come too close to office. For

two decades, alumni from the

Tory think-tanks have withered

in the corridors of power; this

allows to its own finest minds.

Even if the answer turns out to

be "not a lot", this still looks a good time for the research

group Demos to publish an anthology edited by its director

Geoff Mulgan, Life After Poli-

century (Fontana, £7,99).

Demos steers clear of overt

alignment, and the selections

from its work here cover essays

by paid-up Tories as well as by liberals and radicals. Yet it would be idle to deny that the

Demos bandwagon has rolled

down roughly the same road as the modernisers of the left.

Indeed, its style carries echoes

of that piquant moment in the

1980s when Marxism Today

change act by former revolu-

tionaries who briskly remade

themselves as postmodern pol-

trademarks was reverence for

Thatcherism itself: here, Mul-

gan calls it "a bold project of

national renewal which tackled

head on many deep structural problems". Oh yes? Many his-

lady's electoral sleight-of-hand

reflex side of Demos thought

harks back to the intellectual

modes of the late 1980s; the

"elobalisation" mantra, adula-

tion for the Pacific Rim, belief

that the private sector always

get things right. Mulgan claims

that the exhaustion of politics-

as-usual condemns us to "grid-

lock" or "underperformance":

the metaphors of a traditional,

The Demos papers really

shine either up among the Big

Ideas, or down among the details. The best close-focus analysis includes three essays co-authored by Mulgan him-self: with Helen Wilkinson on

young people; with Andrew Adonis on high-tech democracy; and with Robin Murray on ways to link tax to services.

Strong broad-brush pieces range from Zygmunt Bauman on "ethics after certainty" to Sam Brittan's foray into evolu-

tionary psychology - proof that Darwin has filled the Top

demotion of Marx and Freud.

The Demos voice grows

firmer the farther it moves

from 1980s fads. It may still

good. Then, Demos could

flourish mightily. But I don't

imagine it will ever tell us why

the research director calls him-

self Perri 6. Could he be a rela-

Or just a very terse scion of the

tive of R2D2 from Star Wars?

Six dynasty of Amsterdam?

Either way, if he ever re-pro-

grammes himself for the old politics, "64MP" would save a

packet on those printing bills.

take the end-of-an era shock

supplied by a new government

to break that decade's spell for

Thinker vacancy left by the

growth-obsessed progressive.

Far from looking ahead, this

torians now think that the

masked drift and inertia.

magazine hosted a quick-

icy wonks. One of the MT

tics: new thinking for the 21st

year, we could well see how

much house-room Labour



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Slowness by Milan Kundera (Faber, £5.99). At 132 pages, this novel offers a miniature version of the familiar Kundera mix of sex and existential analysis. The narrative concerns two parallel seductions which take place in a French chateau, 200 years apart. In an 18th-century pavilion, the indolent Madame de T savours each moment as she manipulates the desires of her young chevalier; meanwhile, in the 1990s, a secretary is fumblingly seduced at a conference. What really matters are Kundera's reflections on the relationships between



account of her travels around the American south-west opens a mite too self-consciously, with the author gazing at her reflection in a TV screen. Fortunately, her attitude towards the business of self-discovery becomes more sceptical as she encounters local weirdos. Her analysis of "the

spirituality" - with its auras, technoshamans and alien abductees - is sharp and funny as it reveals the extent of such credulity.

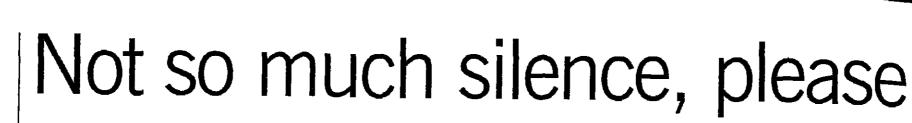
consumer culture's answer to

Wicked Women by Fay Weldon (Flamingo, £6.99) It isn't just the women who are wicked in these stories - the men and childen can get just as nasty. Adultery and divorce feature strongly, with an unsentimental approach that gets straight to the point. The most ghastly characters - including self-satisfied therapists and horribly competitive men - hover just the right side of caricature. There is an overall sense of control in the writing which goes to show that Weldon is far better at stobooks

The

anuary is the time for good resolu-J tions, fresh goals and new horizons, and sales of "self-development" audiobooks are booming. Joseph O'Connor and Ian McDermott's daunting-sounding Introduction to Neuro-Linguistic Programming (Thorsons, 3hrs, £8.99) is genuinely illuminating on the different ways that people think. You may or may not approve of ther tips on how to take advantage of such knowledge. The sibilantly convincing Deepak Chopra's Ageless Body, Timeless Mind (Random House, 3hrs. £8.99) is rather more woolly and New Age-ish (his celebrity clients include Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Jackson). But there are some useful hints on how to cope with an overloaded memory.

Christina Hardyment



Britain's public libraries are winning the loyalty of a new generation of readers. So let's make a racket to celebrate and defend them, argues Ken Worpole

or Seamus Deane's narrator in the spellbinding Reading In The Dark, its windows blazed throughout the darkness of Derry and his childhood. For Harold Pinter, according to a new biography, it was "life-giving" in his adolescent years. It, of course, is the public library. Libraries and childhood seem to go together, and a library card has often been the first badge of citizenship for young people. Even today, when the library service seems beleaguered and defensive, a new study has shown that, while adult fiction issues have declined, children's issues rose by a remarkable 21% in the period between 1989 and 1994.

New research from Sheffield University also confirms this continued attachment to libraries among children and young people. An investigation into young people's use of town centres showed that, apart from general shopping trips, the library was the most popular of all places visited. The report of a Department of National Heritage working party, Investing In Children, makes a clarion call to take the library needs of young library users children even more seriously. Children's librarianship has always been one strength of the service, in spite of tabloid myths about librarians removing books from shelves for reasons of political correctness. In the real world, Birmingham libraries recently pioneered a Centre of the Child, offering facilities for parents and children that are friendly, accessible, educational, recreational - and all free. It's a great success.

Such levels of popular loyalty should stand the library service in good stead as Labour and Conservative leaders compete with promises of access for all in the wired society. A current bid to the Millennium Commission aims to attract money to put all public library services on the Net.

Yet librarians remain depressed. They still feel that nobody loves them. And, in a way, they are right. While a minor falling-out at a fringe theatre can make national news, discussion of library policy and funding seems enveloped in a wall of silence, apart from unease that libraries open for shorter hours and spend less on books. Both these impressions are true, although the difference in quality from area to area has as much to do with management and politics as money.

Yet no other public or commercial institutions has anything like the same cultural reach. Some 58% of the population claim to hold a library ticket, and 40% claim to or Waterstones would kill for that market share. Libraries are often the first place access that public libaries signally overthat new immigrants feel secure enough to visit as they tentatively move into the public realm. They are uniquely popular with both men and women, young and old, black and white, rich and poor.



A study in success: despite budget cuts and the lure of rival attractions, libraries still outperform every other public institution for trust and popularity

So why does the service remain politically and culturally invisible? Perhaps there isn't a single explanation for this anonymity. My own hunch is that it has to do with the chameleon-like nature of libraries, which merge into their commu-

nities so successfully that they disappear. This assimilation may seem unremarkable, but it's a real achievement. We cannot say the same about theatres, art galuse a public library regularly. W H Smith leries, museums or even leisure centres, all of which present the sort of barriers to come. Libraries are a service delivered locally; there is no hierarchy of provision, as in other cultural forms, with a Londonbased "Royal" or "National" jewel in the crown. (Remember that the British Library

is not part of the public library network). The best libraries are often to be found in the regions - in cities such as Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham - and so elude the metropolitan eye. Another factor that ensures a low profile is the professional culture of those who choose to work in libraries: self-effacing, friendly but reserved, with not a a luvvie or militant in sight. People trust librarians to be unobtrusive and accepting, a secular clergy.

Librarians will often tell you that people prefer to photocopy sensitive documents such as immigration or adoption papers at the library rather than the commercial copyshop, even if they have to travel further and pay more. This professional ethos, which does librarians proud offer a high-flyer career structure (librar-

in their relationship to the public, does ians, like their books, circulate). Many of cash flow depends on lobbying, self-promotion and the knack of spotting the next funding programme. While you would trust a librarian to help you trace your family history, you wouldn't send one to a Treasury committee to close a deal.

change and fragmentation. Yet, as the London study shows, many buildings are in the wrong place (on sites that suited late-Victorian population densities) and are unsuited architecturally for modern needs. The profession is failing to attract new talent, largely because it is unable to

them no good at all in a culture in which the most ambitious library-school graduates now go into commercial information management. Despite this, the best of the new generation of city libraries - Hartlepool, Hounslow, Lewisham, for example - have not only doubled or trebled library usage, but have almost single-handedly Britain's libraries are just about holding reversed the decline of town centres. In an their own in a world of extraordinary age of lifelong learning, the public library could come into its own again, but librarians cannot do it all by themselves. Other hands will need to help move the public library service into the 21st century, and onto the sunny uplands of political esteem.

> Ken Worpole co-authored the recent Comedia report, "London: Library City"

Knocking on heaven's crystal floor

Edward Pearce finds that dodgy politics and childish whimsy spoil the charm of an eminent Edwardian

Wisdom and Innocence: a life of G K Chesterton by Joseph Pearce, Hodder and Stoughton, £25

there was "any amount of promise in the work" of the young G K Chesterton, he added "Merely as matter of loathsome detail, Chesterton has a bad attack tial today. of 'aureoles'. They are spotted all over the book." The aureoles of their equivalents bits of breathless, ardent, overwritten lansystem. He formed his style in the decadent 1890s when Wilde was interior-decorating in "red gold". And though he shrank from Wilde, Chesterton, alternately flashy and amorphous, qualifies as a wholesome decadent. Joseph Pearce has written a devoted but decently scrupulous book which comes with the discouraging acclaim of the Chesterton Society. It was an interesting life in exciting times, but 60 years after, it isn't easy to understand his contemporary reputation. Chesterton's poems are either kitsch like "The Donkey"

pling put it well. Having agreed that or bombast like "Lepanto". The prose is a big woolly toy, charming but too charming. The Father Brown books and The Napoleon of Notting Hill seem insubstan-

He was a nice man, who reached out to children and had in spades the English instinct for animals, but was no good with guage - never were got out of Chesterton's adults or politics. He was also a soft man moulded by fanatics.

But the softness protected him. He had with Bernard Shaw an incestuous, narcissistic relationship. They flipped light punches and large compliments at each other and rested on each other's gloves. Both were big personalities who would have flourished on television, though

Chesterton was your man for sound-bites. But Shaw has survived his admiration for Stalin and tolerance of Hitler; he flourishes and is performed. Chesterton, who half-admired Mussolini, is just about

in print. So politics are not the reason. Pearce quotes and excuses Chesterton's anti-semitic remarks and verses, such as: "Oh I knew a Dr Gluck/ And his nose it had a hook/ And his attitudes were anything but Aryan/ So I gave him pork/ That I had upon a fork/ Because I am myself a vegetarian." Pearce says this "was intended primarily as a jocular attack on vegetarianism." Was it now? Admirers stress the child-like aspects of the man, But there was a recurring element that is

It would have been a sounder defence of Chesterton to say that the things which (in his own phrase) "leave a bad smell in the mind" derive largely from Hilaire Belloc. Chesterton was truly shocked at fanatics who murder Jews on the street." Belloc, after an Atlantic crossing among Jewish fellow-passengers, day-dreamed about New York rising to slaughter "the a gilded Luddism, but also to greet Mus-

better characterised as childish.

creatures of the deep". Belloc's anti-Semitism was French Catholic - following the pattern of the Jeunesses Patriotes and the Anti-Dreyfusards - but rooted also in the "crucifiers of our Lord" mentality, once virulently expressed across the Catholic Church. The Church Chesterton joined in 1922 was not that of Pope John XXIII.

He was devoted to a Father Vincent McNabb, who inspired him to a good example of Chestertonian gush and rapture: "I have no more doubt that a man like Father McNabb is walking on a crystal floor over my head than I have that Quoodle (Chesterton's dog) has a larger equipment of legs than I have." There is a lot of Chesterton in that letter: endearing charm, self-deprecation and emotional self-indulgence. But from McNabb he took much of his blind hostility to industry and capitalism. It led him at best into

Maggie Smith and pro-

tégées in The Prime of

Miss Jean Brodie; from

David Bruce's Scotland:the movie (Polygon, £14.99)

solini's "new Italian government" as " dis-tinguished and divided in a most startling manner from anything to which we are

accustomed as capitalism". Chesterton, unlike Belloc, lacked the rage and malice to be a fascist. The man who sends a telegram saying 'Am at Crewe, where should I be?" is too good for such rubbish. But one of his best aperçus turns back upon himself. "If men cease to believe in God" he said, "they will not believe in nothing. They will believe in anything." As much might be said of those, like Chesterton, who cease to believe in industrial capitalism. His own favoured notion, Distributism, was a cult of smallholders and small craftsmen. It fitted his anti-industrialism. Gothic tastes in art, and his chocolate-box vision of "the age of Faith" - the undernourished, bookand-dissident-burning Middle Ages. And, as an idea, that qualifies as "anything".

Paperbacks -

By Boyd Tonkin and Lucasta Miller

he White Boy Shuffle by Paul Beatty (Minerva, £6.99) Ignore the cheesy "homeboy" image on the cover: this debut novel is a muscular satire on America's ethnic imbroglio from a young writer who studied with Ginsberg and has already made a name as a performance poet. Beatty's middle-class black hero, Gunnar Kaufman, wises up on LA streets and Boston campuses as he falls foul of every shade of radical and racist. Beatty has some good barnstorming fun at the expense of bigots, militants and the black bourgeoisie, but it's the language that keeps his book affoat. A cascading rap of gags and allusions finds room from some inspired silliness, almost as if Edward Lear returned to gig with Ice T

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L Frank Baum (Oxford World's Classics, £4.99). The early works of Lyman Frank Baum, a smalltime hustler of America's Gilded Age, didn't suggest very much promise. They included a guide to raising chickens and The Art of Decorating Dry-Goods Windows. Theu, in 1900, he published Oz, which became a hit Broadway musical two years later. The rest is - not history, but one of the few enduring modern myths, as the Yellow Brick Road led to immortality. Susan Wolstenholme's introduction goes beyond the usual psychological readings to point out parallels between Baum's former trade as a peddler of new consumer dreams and the fraudulent Wizard himself, who

gleefully proclaims himself "a humbug". An intriguing New Year treat for all Cowardly Lions, Tin Men and friends of Dorothy.

> past and present, public and private, power and exhibitionism. which range in tone from the sublime to the slapstick.

Motel Nirvana: dreaming of the New Age in the American desert by Melanie McGrath (Flamingo, £6.99) McGrath's

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The quest for owls and tiger bingos

A wild goose chase... in winter, in Holland? Caroline Dilke took her binoculars to woods near Harderwijk

hat made you decide to come on this holiday?" Suddenly, like birds with sharp eyes and beaks, the others in the party had turned their attention on me.

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"Well, I've always been a keen amateur naturalist - and this seemed an exciting thing to do in December. And I'm learning a lot - about how to look for them, as well as how to identify them, and

None of this seemed to satisfy my companions. They'd noted, of course, my small, lightweight binoculars, my non-regulation birdwatching outfit of blue padded coat and trousers (real "birders" wear dark olive green) and, above all, my lack of

It had taken me a while to pick up the basic vocabulary: "bins", "scope", "raptors", "passermes". I am deeply thankful that, on the first afternoon, when the phrase "tiger bingos" was on everybody's lips, I was too cowardly to ask, "What's a tiger bingo?" (It's so obvious ... A taiga bean goose is one that's spent the summer in the taiga of the far north, rather than the tundra.)

The five-day holiday had been advertised as "spectacular winter birding within an hour's flight of home". Spectacular it certainly was. Our leader, in the square outside, then set off in a minibus with Arnoud van den Berg, a famous Dutch orni- our bins, scopes and a packed lunch. thologist, took great care that everyone (including me) got as good views as possible of the birds he charmed out of the woods with a wild, hissing call, or drove us miles across polders and along dikes to or a motorway service station (rose finches); or scan across wintry, ruffled wastes of water, where thousands of wildfowl bobbed like grains of pepper.

Some of our sightings, I believe, would have thrilled the most blase. The long-eared owl who stared back at us with golden eyes from a roost in a fir tree 10ft away (we'd invaded a suburban garden); the trip to a wood at dusk to watch the nesting hole of a black woodpecker and wait for it to fly around us with its eerie, mewing call, before climbing in for the night; the white-tailed eagle that put up a cackling flock of 3,000 geese, then it soared above us, as menacing and huge as a wolf

On the other hand, some of our expeditions were strictly for serious birders. One afternoon we drove hundreds of kilometres through endless, grey-green fields - their monotony broken only by an occasional glasshouse glowing weirdly through the drizzle -hunting the clusive lesser white-fronted goose (there are only 20 in Holland, apparently), scanning flock after flock of other species to detect the white eye ring and slightly curved white facial plate which would distinguish our quarry from the ordinary white-fronted goose (of which we saw countless thousands, grey geese with sooty streaks on their bellies, as if they'd flown over embers and been chargrilled). That afternoon I'd rather have had a walk in a wood to look for more common birds - particularly as we never did find the lesser white-fronts.



hours of daylight. So after breakfast in our comfortable hotel in Harderwijk (which used to be a port, before the land north of it was claimed from the sea), we'd have a quick look for tree-creepers

Our leader would have caught the latest bird news beforehand, so we'd find ourselves visiting the casualty bay of a large hospital (crested larks) stopping in a tiny village where he unsportingly played a tape of a little owl's call, and brought a cross, feathered face to the door of a nesting-box.

Back at the hotel, after dinner came the task of doing "the list". The travel company had helpfully provided a checklist of 189 bird species that we might possibly see during our stay. We saw - some of us saw -112 of them, plus two rarities that weren't on the list.

What constitutes a "tick"? This was an interesting moral question. If you sight a little bird flitting quickly past, and the leader of the party says it's a hawfinch, do you tick hawfinch? Or do you wait until you've definitely seen for yourself the outline of the stout bill and the white flash on the wings? Clearly, different people drew this line in different places. The Scotswoman in our group was particularly rigorous: "Well, I'm not ticking that." A related question was: what's the distinction between "birding" and "twitching"? Would any members of the party admit to being a twitcher?

Their answers were defensive. "I wouldn't drop everything and go, no. I didn't go to see the harlequin ducks at Girvan. But when the buff-breasted sandpiper came to the coast I did go to see that."

"I never twitch outside the county. But I do listen to Birdline. And I'd take the morning off work to see a good bird. My life list for Northumberland is 329."



Even the most blasé "birder" would be thrilled by the sighting of a long-eared owl

"My list for this year is 320."

"I don't know what my list is. I've never counted. I just enjoy looking at birds.

Everyone disapproved of the pure twitcher, who clocks a rare bird, then immediately departs. A birder" will stay to relish the details of plumage and behaviour, hoping to get a good view of something he may never see again.

"Americans come to me with a list," said Arnoud, "So they have to visit in spring, when I know the nesting sites."

Of course, interesting birds may be seen here all year round, but in winter, geese make for the area in their countless thousands. The government

generously compensates farmers for the damage they do (each goose can eat half a kilo of grass a day, as well as treading down and ruining other crops), and about half the Dutch population contribute money for conservation areas. As well as hirds, the naturalist can see impressive herds of Przewalski's horses and aurochs - "wild" cattle re-

red from the gene pool of zoo animals. Who were we, on this trip? The group included a stockbroker, a scientist with his own biotech business, a retired engineer, a man from "the banking world", the wife of a university lecturer, and a journalist. All but one had a partner - whom we'd left at home. Not because they weren't interested in birds, but because they weren't seriously interested in birds. Not serious enough to go on a wild

goose chase, anyway. Would I go on a similar trip again? Yes. But not just yet. I'll save up for a 'scope instead, and maybe invest in a less embarrassing birding outfit.

Caroline Dilke travelled with Limosa Holidays, which organises trips all year round to various places, including India, Majorca, Hungary and Africa. Details from Sufficid House, Northrepps, Norfolk NR27 OLZ (01263 578143). The five-day trip to Holland, which included British Airways flights and everything except drinks, cost £725.

In the grip of a proper winter

Christmas in our area would have been money down the drain; but New Year was another matter. On the last morning of 1996 I awoke to find the valley glowing silver in brilliant moonlight, with a blanket of snow laid smoothly over the ice.

When I left the house at 6.30am, on the way to my deer-stalking grounds, the air was sharp enough to sear my lungs, and the lanes were treachery personified, even for a Jeep in four-wheel drive. Along most of the 15mile route the snow was virgin, but when a single set of wheel marks showed that the vehicle ahead of me had performed several figures of eight before hitting a chunk out of one bank, I took things even more steadily.

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When snow is lying, it has the effect of advancing daybreak: the light, reflected from the ground, seems to come up earlier, and this, combined with my slow passage, meant that I arrived slightly late on the scene. Deer that had been feeding out on sheltered fields were already back in the safety of the trees.



extensive nocturnal activity printed in the snow ... fascinating to see evidence of nocturnal activity printed in the snow. The deer had

Duff Hart-Davis It was

fascinating to see evidence of

As always under snow, the woods were transformed. It was as if the weather had staged a giant X-ray, for the white covering on the ground laid bare the bones of the forest. Looking into steep banks from a distance, I could see detail never visible on normal days: hollows, ridges, badger setts,

fallen trunks. Twice, also, I saw a small group of deer: grey, rounded shapes, with a texture indescribably yet definitely different from that of their surroundings. But in that intense frost they had an overwhelming advantage, for they were standing still, and I was on the move. Creep as I might, I could not advance quietly: every footfall on iced-up leaves crackled as loudly as if I had been walking on cornflakes.

Attempts at stalking were

hopeless; but it was

moved around a good deal, feeding off their favourite bramble leaves. Fox tracks led everywhere - lines of elegant, single prints - and badgers had been digging down into the leaves in their search for worms or insects.

Back in the village, turmoil reigned. People had abandoned their cars and walked to the shop, and the postman, unable to drive un any of the hills out of the valley, was distributing mail by hand.

At home, tracks showed that we had entertained numerous prowlers during the hours of darkness. Foxes had paraded through the farmyard and across the lawn. Rabbits had bobbed all over the fields. The most laborious task

was that of smashing the ice

on water troughs. So thick was the crust - 3in in the middle, 4in at the edges that only a heavy, woodsplitting maul would do the job. Then it was a question of carrying out buckets of hot water, so that the sheep could get a drink before it went solid again.

And yet, in the evening when I walked along the valley, I saw how treacherous ice can be. The static contents of our troughs had been frozen hard for days, yet the millpond, through which a stream runs, was open at one corner, kept clear by the small yet constant movement of the water. When I threw a pebble, it fell straight through the icc. which was no thicker than

cardboard. The lake downstream was in a similar state. The ice that covered much of it was

strong enough to bear the 21 resident greylag geese, but any human venturing on to it would have gone

straight through.

New Year's day dawned exactly the same; another crunching frost, another diamond-bright sky, the snow still lying, the Siberian wind still blowing, and the cold so intense that ice had formed on the inside of some window panes. Now more than ever I was glad that I had a goodly store of seasoned firewood, ash, oak and beech. When I brought in three basketfuls and let the wood-burning stoves rip, the labours of the summer seemed infinitely worthwhile. The challenge now is to keep ahead by laying in supplies for 1998.

As 20 intrepid starters gathered in the village street for Ron the shop's traditional New Year death march (ultimate destination, the Old Crown), everyone was stamping feet and flapping arms. But once we had moved off into the hills I believe all were agreed. deep down, that it felt natural and right to be starting the year in the grip of a proper winter.

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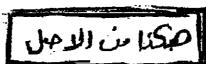
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Captains may set their timepieces from it, and thereby set a course for pleasure or plunder. These days most mariners rely on satellite-based Global Positioning Systems to check they are on the Thames rather than the Tiber or the Tigris, but the legacy of longitude has made Greenwich the centre of the world. Since we invented it, we earned the right to install a - no, the - Meridian anywhere we jolly well chose. So the global circumference of zero longitude is deemed to slice straight through the middle of the Royal Observatory -

> By now, the sun had set over the spires and skyscrapers of the City of London. Both 1996 and I

which is also the repository of Universal Time.

of £20,000 to the maker of a clock that could keep time on a transatlantic voyage. A chronologist named John Harrison proved it could be done with

an elaborate timepiece aboard HMS Deptford.

Precision throughout the universe is main-



The year 2000 will begin at the place claiming the world rights to zero: Greenwich

were running out of time. A final meal had to be You will get no further than a set of heavy and cost just £1.60. The DJ's music came from lands taken at the restaurant nearest the Meridian.

tained these days by the Greenwich time signal and by a bright red Time Ball, dropped daily at The mariners who started off from absolute zero 1pm from a tower on the roof of the Observatory. have brought culinary riches aplenty back to Greenwich. New Spain, or at least its component parts, is represented by the Café Sol - a Tex-Mex cantina, I am assured. But both it and the Taste of India restaurant are further from 0 degrees than the Vietnam, just around the corner from Nevada Street. Here I dined on Atlantic salmon and Pacific prawns, washed down with French water and wine.

From the door of the restaurant you may turn left and pay your respects to what was once the fastest ship in the world, the Cutty Sark - a clipper perched on dry land at the end of King William Walk. Or you can turn right, as I did, and try to pick your way through Greenwich Park to the Observatory to await the New Year.

exceedingly well chained gates. As the temperature sped towards absolute zero, I was glad to be obliged to implement plan B: to witness midnight from the pub closest to the Meridian. My Ordnance Survey map indicated that this was to be found along Trafalgar Road (commemorating the lonely Spanish cape where Nelson staged a famous victory). The closest candidate is next door to the Ocean Fish Bar, and is appropriately named Hardy's Tavern; Thomas Masterman Hardy was Nelson's flag captain on the Victory, and the officer who kissed the dying admiral.

Anyone picking a pub strictly mathematically knows that it may well be a truly miserable hostelry, with a stroppy landlord serving bad and overpriced beer. Not Hardy's, where a party was in full swing and an invigorating pint of Spitfire

located with that precious Greenwich longitude: Motown from Detroit, Marley from Jamaica (where New Year's Eve is known by the more resonant and regressive term of Old Year's Night). Only briefly did I wish, uncharitably, that a country could be disinvented, when the Canadian singer Bryan Adams launched into a dirge.

Around the corner is Greenwich Hospital, and

the evening shift at casualty had just ended. A convoy of medics, smoking and drinking copiously ("it's the stress", I was assured), steamed in and kindly adopted a stray journalist.

"Why should you want to spend New Year's Eve in a pub in Greenwich?" asked Suzanne, a midwife, between sips of peach schnapps.

"I wanted to find the pub nearest the Meridian." "Oh." (Pause) "Isn't that some kind of hotel?"

PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN HARRIN The idea of proceeding to Max's party had been

long abandoned, but the option momentarily reappeared when Bachman-Turner Overdrive blasted on to the dance floor (providing one further reason to un-discover Canada).

By now much Hardyesque snogging had begun. I made my excuses and made for the official millennium site. The location for Britain's year 2000 celebration is not to be found at the Royal Observatory; nor at the pub where "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet" was drilling through dancers' skulls. It is the abandoned gasworks at the entrance to the Blackwall Tunnel. Technically, this is Greenwich; indeed the Meridian grazes one edge as it strokes against the Isle of Dogs. But neither Henry VIII nor Horatio Nelson would recognise the frozen waste-scape as their Greenwich, the precious suburb whose line rules the waves.

Hot, bothered and confused

On the fifth day of Christmas Simon Calder found himself in departure lounge purgatory

the coast of the Dominican Republic, Captain Robin Renton was standing on a table while a xylophonic version of "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer" jingled from a loudspeaker.

Yet this was no jape aboard the good ship Horizon. Capt Renton is an airline pilot. The location was Santo Domingo airport, and he was surrounded by a crowd united by an angry desire to be elsewhere. As he relied above the "you'll go down in historeeeee!" climax, I shuddered for the well-intentioned captain.

y chief Christmas cruise a 300-seater aircraft which develops exposed to verbal abuse and (much memory occurred close to a fault 4,000 miles from home. Instead of approaching Manchester, the beleaguered Boeing is parked at one of the world's less well-appointed airports. And a lot of hot, bothered and confused people are demanding to

know what you plan to do about it.

Last Sunday, Aeropuerto Las

Americas resembled the year: clapped out and approaching its use-by date.
In the crush of the Sunday after
Christmas, the airport's inadequacies were revealed. Gradually evident, too, were serious shortcomings by Britain's biggest holiday company -Just imagine. You are in charge of which is why Capt Renton was

The facts are straightforward. We passengers had checked in three hours before the scheduled departure time of 4.45pm. After a 35-minute delay caused by an unspecified technical problem, Britannia flight BY154 pushed back for the eight-hour journey to Manchester and trundled to

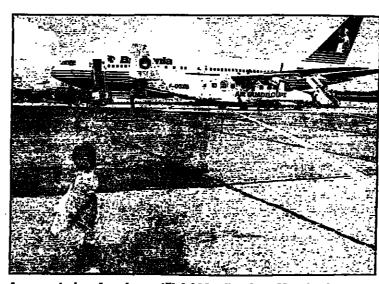
worse) interrogation by video-camera.

the end of the runway. But instead of the customary roar of the twin engines - nothing. After 10 minutes, Capt Renton announced that a problem with the air-conditioning systems meant we would return to the terminal. We sat quietly and obediently for another 50 minutes before being told: "The captain has requested that you all leave the aircraft while we run

So far, so unexceptional. Everyone knows that jet aircraft are complex machines, and nobody would wish to fly in a plane which was less than 100 per cent fit. All that was required was for the passengers to be kept informed about developments, and to be treated decently. Since Britannia is the inhouse airline of Thomson, the UK's leading tour operator, there was a presumption we would be looked after.

It was, therefore, surprising to find no Thomson rep or airline handling agent on hand to pacify passengers and direct us to a holding lounge. The delay was rapidly ticking towards the three-hour threshold, after which Thomson usually provides "light refreshment vouchers". This humane gesture reflects the fact that passengers will not have eaten for several hours before reaching the airport and also that most of us had spent or given away our last pesos, since the at the airport. But, in the short term, currency of the Dominican Republic is of limited use in Manchester.

Meanwhile, if we but knew it, much was going on. Calls were zapping between Thomson's duty office



base in Luton, and the airline's engineers based in Sanford, Florida. Hotels in Santo Domingo were put on standby in case an overnight stay was

Yet nobody told us anything for the next two sweaty hours, which were Domingo Inter-Continental Hotel. filled instead with grumbles from tired and hungry children. From a contingent that had located a good supply of beer, there was yet more infantile behaviour as the wait degenerated into a hot, cross bunfight.

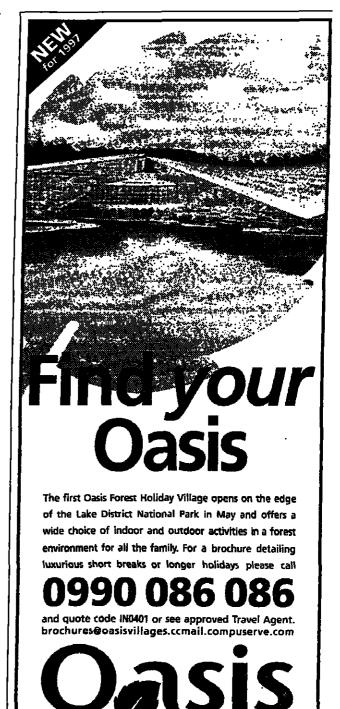
We might still be there were it not for two passengers who broke aviation rules and walked out across the apron and up the stairs to the 767's cockpit. That they could do this unchallenged raises serious concerns about security there was gratitude among the forgotten masses that they persuaded the to look closely at how to show the

captain to explain what was going on.

in London, the Britannia Airways Florida by Lear Jet, and would work on the problem while we slept. Takeoff was planned for noon the next day. getting us back to the UK before the end of the year. Eight hours after the scheduled departure, the last passengers were checked into the Santo

Next day, noon came and went without explanation. But a couple of hours beyond that, the Boeing finally lifted off. A flurry of snow flickered in the landing lights at Manchester, where by now it was 2.30am on New Year's Eve - nearly a day late.

What with the costs of accommodation and hiring an executive jet, I estimate that the delay cost Thomson close to £100,000. But among us 300 paying customers, I fear the company has lost a degree of something more precious: respect. The company needs same commodity to clients stranded Slowly, a plan emerged. Two engi- in a strange land - or it could end up neers were to be flown down from with a red and shiny corporate nose.



Forest Holiday Villages



The word off the street

A non-consumer guide to the capital's centre. By Simon Calder

London". Those of us who reside at the metropolis are disinclined to agree, except in weeks like this. Well – suppose your local high street promised "never-to-be-repeated" prices and persuaded the entire shopping population of the world to the sale. You can imagine the strains on citizens who try to go about their lawful touris-tic business in places like Covent Garden and Oxford Street, Knightsbridge and the King's Road, only to find they have stumbled into an orgy of conspicuous consumption. Yet just a few yards off the all-too-beaten path, the following escape route will lead you through another London.

'Covert' Garden

The funny thing about the London Transport Museum is that it is quite hard to reach by London Transport - being stranded the wrong side of the Covent Garden shopping plaza from the Tube station, and away from any bus route. Yet it is worth struggling with the A-Z to locate the covert side of the garden - in order to dwell on a rich, proud past when the capital had the finest public transport in the world, and buses and Tube trains came in deep red splashed with municipal gold.

That era shifts even further into the background tomorrow, when fares rise and London strengthens its lead around: a single hop on the Tube will cost £1.20. So slip back for a while to the clanking, wheezing heritage of trams and trolley-buses. Open 10am-6pm daily (but Fridays from 11am); adults £4.50, children £2.50.)

ell", wrote Shelley, "is a city much like becomes Neptune and Aldgate East is replaced by London". Those of us who reside in the Kate Adie: £9.99 from the LT Museum Shop.

Slipping through Soho
The shelves of the bookshops lining Charing Cross
Road draw you towards the east end of Oxford
Street, but resist the pulling power of the Virgin
Megastore and switch to Greek Street. At the top,
is the bary it opens out to the modest meaders of just where it opens out to the modest meadow of Soho Square, the House of St Barnabas promises relief for women - not shoppers, but those who need a temporary home and possess "the necessary recommendations". This refuge doubles as London's most enticing entrée into 18th-century domestic life. Twice a week, the doors are flung open to visitors (male and female) who wish to climb the creaking staircase and see the solemnly decorated quarters. The furniture, and the art, are exquisitely unrefurbished. (Open Wednesday, 2.30-4.15pm, and Thursday, 11am-12.20pm; admissions of the creaking staircase and see the solemnly decorated quarters. sion free, but "donations gratefully received.")

If you must spend, splash out two doors down at an old-time vintners. Milroy's of Soho has a champagne sale on at present, and a bottle of Dry Monopole costs a reasonable £12.25.

Oxford Street is now only 200 yards away, but a parallel course will help you elude almost all the shoppers. Hollen Street begins the trail, beneath the pompously Edwardian facade of Henry Heath's Hat Factory. The suffix "of Oxford Street" reveals a strange wannabe tendency among some institutions south of the commercial corridor.

If you must spend, buy Simon Patterson's

A few doors down, you discover the misThat makes its own beer and enables you to toast your

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Street, a counter-espionage store, where you can where New Cross Gate

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Just a few yards off the all-too-beaten path lies another London: Royal Avenue, off the King's Road

becomes Great Marlborough Street, the shops begin to encroach. Leading the assault are the mocking half-timbers of Liberty - trimmed this year with blocks of startling mauve. As you slip across Regent Street, hold your course steady along Maddox Street and Grosvenor Street. The surroundings get smarter all the time, but the climax - the grand architectural integrity of Grosvenor Square - is squandered by the squat

bulk of the US Embassy. Then you spill out upon Park Lane, the eight-carriageway barrier to Hyde Park; the underground car park here is the place where you have to go if your car was clamped back in Covent Garden.

If you must spend, then dive into Harold Moore's Records on Great Mariborough Street. specialising in second-hand vinyl. A Medium Play Microgroove recording of "Four Serious Songs" by Brahms costs just £2 this week.

first Royal reserve to be open to the proletariat plus, these days, reckless rollerbladers and careless cyclists. You may wish to slip through the twirly, sub-Namian gates to visit Apsley House, but beware January's gloom accelerating towards dusk.

Knightsbridge is where the A4 gets caught up in a terminal tangle with bargain-hunters, and is a far-from-pretty sight even when the lights of Harrods are blazing. So sneak along Harriet Walk, a mews that offers a retreat from the din and the discounts. You find it at the back door of Harvey Nichols, and can use it as a short cut to the calmer reaches of Sloane Square. Persevere with the miscellany of building works and delivery platforms to reach the handsome cottages at the end, before you are tipped out on to Lowndes Street and the fringe of Cadogan Place - which leads elegantly down to the land of the Sloane rangers, the eponymous square.

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rate security officer should have one" is the catchy slogan.

Trumping King's Road
Until this week, I had not even noticed what happens just before you reach McDonald's. Shortly after you begin the westbound battle along King's Road, Royal Avenue opens up an emergency exit from the street, leading the eye - and the reluctant shopper - down a central reservation almost as broad as a football field. The gracious Georgian terraces escort you south. After a hundred yards you discover, in quick visual succession, a real foot-ball pitch, the low grandeur of the Royal Hospital and, beyond, Battersea Power Station. This is a view that is open to all but that few are fortunate enough to grasp - the greatest bargain in London.

If you must spend, turn left along the less fash-ionable Pimlico Road to the Orange Brewery, a pub

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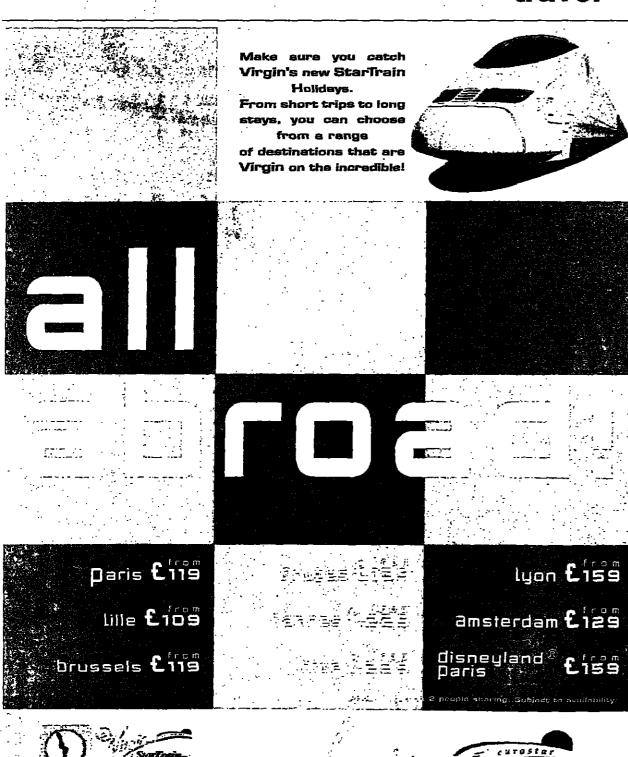
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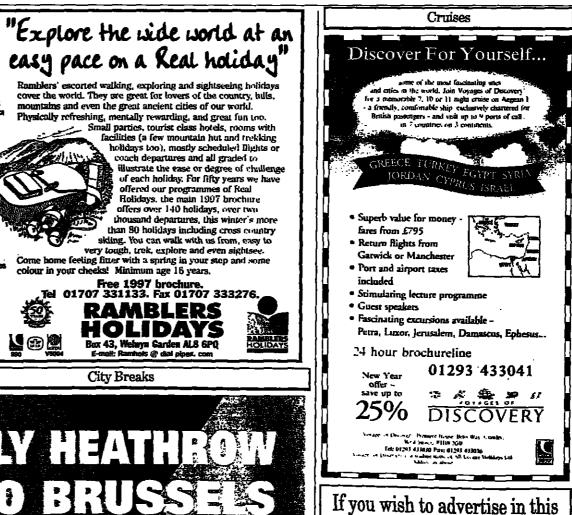
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There are two main areas that you

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the streets around King's Cross

Here are some suggestions of

decent places to stay, ranging from.

youth hostels to some of the best .

hotels in the capital. Wherever you

choose, book early to stake your

may prefer to avoid; the roads south

The area where you stay in

A night for two in a modest establishment can top £100, while for

easily spend £300.

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You can be accommodated in one of the more exclusive parts of London at a snip. Whatever you save by staying here can be redistributed in the expensive and thoroughly fashionable shops.

Three capital eating habits

Compiled by Amelia Hill

Dominic Wells, Editor of Time Out

I'm not much of a breakfast-person, but I'm an inveterate luncher: I always have been - I suppose it comes with the job. My favourite place has to be Alfred's in New Oxford Street. It has a suppose it comes with the job. My everything go on around me.

The other place where I love to eat is Marie's Café which is a Thai suppose it comes with the job. My good list of proper beers as well good list of proper beers as well as English wines, which are sur- at the Young Vic. The café is an prisingly drinkable. The menu is pretty good too: the last thing I ate there was rabbit in wine, which was absolutely delicious.

My favourite place for supper has to be The Ivy on West Street, even after all these years. The Ivy used to house the world's most beautiful loo, although last time I went, they were doing something to it, so I hope it's still there.

I often combine drinking and eating at The Hope on Tottenham Street, W1. It serves a dozen different sorts of sausage and the really remarkable thing - a dozen different sorts of mustard with amazing names like "Dragon's Breath"

Other drinking dens include the Grove Tavern in Camberwell, which is huge and lovely, the Rising Sun off Tottenham Court Road, and the Windmill in the W1 street of the same name which is the last unreconstructed pub in London.

Tim Supple, Artistic Director of the Young Vic

I live in South London and am very much entrenched in that area. As far as I'm concerned, the best place for breakfast is a Turkish outfit, Tadim's on Camberwell Church Street. It's a wonderful place: when you walk in, you are immediately hit by a smell of fresh pastry and coffee. It also sells huge croissants, the biggest you have ever seen. When I eat in there I feel as though I've been

transported a long way away. I usually eat a simple lunch

when I'm rehearsing. There is a classic Italian place in Brixton market called Franco's which is the real McCoy. I love to sit in there, in the middle of the market, and watch all the people and

unprepossessing place on Lower Marsh, but sells wonderful fresh food. They do three Thai dishes each day, all of them great there's always a massive queue.

In the evening I often go to Giardino's on Blenheim Grove in Peckham. It's like walking into a little cupboard - everything is wood and it's absolutely tiny. They do great pizzas, pastas, meats and salads here - and with wine, a full meal costs around £15.

Mark McGann, Actor

I go to Banners in Crouch End for breakfast because it's well hip and you can turn up in all your scruff or with kids - it's very relaxed. They sell comfort food here, like bangers and mash which I love because it takes me back to my northern roots. For lunch, I like Café des Arts

in Hampstead High Street. It's very good food for not much money. The Bombay Brasserie in Glouester Road is good for Sunday lunches - they have a great buffet - although suppers are nice here, too. I like the place because it's spacious - you could take a party of 15 people here and still be private.

Orso in Wellington Street serves the finest Italian cuisine I've ever had. It's very much theatre town here and especially caters for theatre audiences.

As for drinking, I love the Holly Bush in Hampstead: it's run by two Liverpool people so it is really a home from home.



PHOTO: PHILIP MEECH Thai without pretentions - Marie's Café, Lower Marsh near Waterloo

Take five for food

Rhiannon Batten feasts on a dieters' budget

spent the summer escorting tour wanted to visit London, but with a weak yen (or so they told me). I was under strict instructions to find places where with one of their waist-busting pudthe party could re-energise for a fiver apiece.

Waxy O'Connor's 14-16 Rupert Street, W1 (0171-287 0255)

If you enter this pub from the tiny back entrance on Wardour Street it's like entering an underground Irish glade, with trees poking up through the flour and plenty of old-fashioned nooks and crannies to loll about in. For £4.95 you can feast on mussels or oysters. Or for £3.95 you can sit and gorge yourself on huge chunks of heavy soda bread lavished with fat portions of smoked salmon and sour cream - and still have enough change for a Guinness served by the friendliest bar staff in London.

Wagamama 4 Streatham Street, WC1

(0171-323 9223) At the ultimate Japanese noodle bar. just along from the British Museum, you sit on long and stylish benches as young, snappy waiters breeze efficiently up and down attending to your every need. From yaki soba at £4.20 to kare lomen (ramen with lemongrass, coconut milk, shrimp paste, ginger and garlic, garnished with tofu, beansprouts, coriander and spring onions) at £4.70, you can't really disappoint your taste buds. The food is not as authentic as a true Japanese connoisseur would ask for, but it is perfect for an upbeat and speedy dinner with friends.

Cranks 17-19 Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 5226)

A self-service vegetarian restaurant dishing up hearty portions of healthy food doesn't sound the most exciting combination for a dazzling evening meal. But Crank's, just around the corner from Leicester Square tube, is fun too. The surroundings are light and bright, the staff friendly and generous Added to which, you can really stuff order before 7.15pm.

groups of young Japanese students around southern England. Everyone around southern England. Everyone many different salads as you can munch through, for £3.95. Finish it off dings such as plum and ginger crum-ble, £2.20 – if you can fit it in.

13-15 Westbourne Grove, W2 (0171-727 5420)

Temptingly convenient for a meal on the way home from an evening's latenight shopping on Queensway, this Indian restaurant is so enormous that you're always sure of being slotted in somewhere. The service is quick and brusque, but you get what you pay for, and for a fiver that means a decent meal. The size of the menu reflects the size of the place, and the 70 or so main dishes all cost around £3-£4.

Ben's Thai Restaurant The Warrington Hotel, 93 Warrington Crescent, W9 (0171-266 3134)

When you walk into this rambling corner pub you think you must have misheard when someone told you that there was a Thai restaurant here, but head up the stairs into the Art Nouveau surroundings, and you realise they were right. For £4.55 you can tuck into That classic noodles, rice or stir-fry dishes. It certainly beats the usual pub grub. The other advantage to this place is that you only have to stagger down the staircase after the meal to find a decent pub.

The Little Bay 228 Belsize Road, NW6 (0171-372 4699)

You hardly expect duck en croute to be served up with French flair just off Kilburn High Road, but that's exactly what you get at this little bistro. If you're on a tight budget, this is somewhere you can relax about splashing out on, because the splash needn't splatter very far. It is the kind of place to choose for a romantic, candlelit evening, but is an equally good choice for a small group. Prices from £1.65 for starters and £3.85 for mains. At the moment you can get with their helpings of delicious dishes. a three-course meal for £5.50 if you

...and where to stay

By Amelia Hill



PHOTO: PHILIP MEECH

Highgate Village, 84 Highgate West Hill, N6 (0181-340 1831); nearest tube, Archway. Costs: £12.25 with a YHA card.

Another beautiful setting, which you might find a relief after too much exposure to the centre of the capital. It is a long walk from tube station, but bus 214 from King's Cross will drop you off five minutes away.

Rotherhithe, Island Yard, Salter Road, SE16 (0171-232 2114). The nearest tube is Rotherhithe, but this is on a part of the system that is presently closed for rebuilding. Instead, take bus P11 from Waterloo station (about 20 minutes). Some twin rooms are available, for £22.75 per person. This is the largest hostel in London and will almost certainly have some free room. Its main drawback is poor public transport

Hotels

The streets of Notting Hill and Ladbroke Grove are attractive in a run-down sort of a way. This is an interesting, Bohemian area that houses a diverse community and the fantastic Portobello market. Try the Demetriou Guest House at 9 Strathmore Gardens W8 (0171-229 6709, Notting Hill Gate tube). This small, quiet, family-run guest house offers rooms for a minimum of three nights for £32 per night for a single room or £44 for a double. The Holland Park Hotel, at 6 Ladbroke Terrace W11 (0171-792 0216,

Holland Park tube) has a real fire, comfortable lounge and pretty garden. Accommodation costs £52 and £72 for a single and double room respectively. including a full Continental breakfast.

Another fun area to stay is Covent Garden. The Fielding Hotel, 4 Broad Court, Bow Street, WC2 (0171-836 8305, Covent Garden tube) is one of the best places around here and is exceptionally good value: £63 for a single, £80 for a double. Recently refurbished, the hotel is in a pedestrianised yard which is picturesquely lit by gas-lamps.

The Swiss-style Mornington Hotel, 12 Lancaster Gate W2 (0171-262 7361, Lancaster Gate tube) charges slightly more: £89 for a single room or £99 for a double including a limitless Swiss buffet after which you'll probably find lunch unnecessary. A notch up the scale, if you can

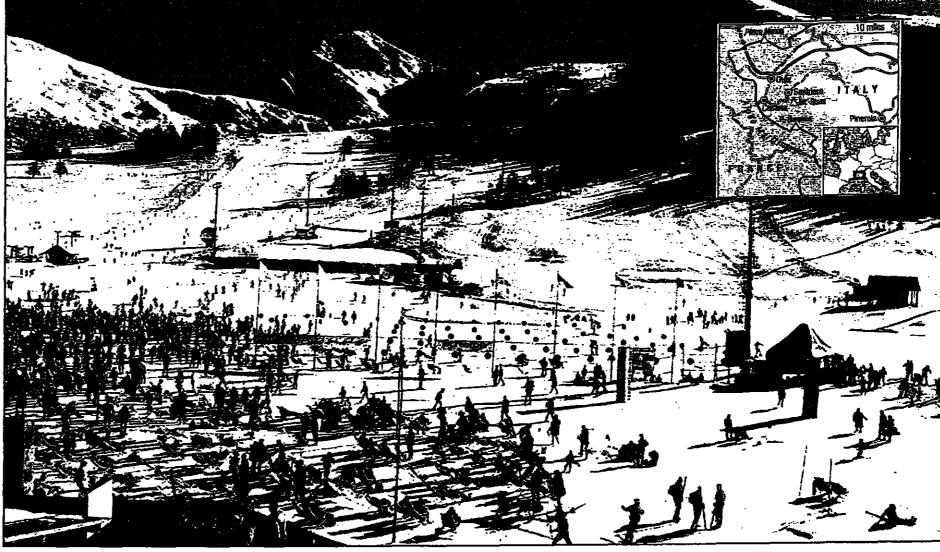
afford it, is the Basil Street Hotel, on 8 Basil Street SW3 (0171-581 3311, Knightsbridge tube) for £130 single/£185 double. This friendly hotel is highly characterful, with individually decorated rooms and the Parrot Club, a woman-only bar in which female visitors can relax.

If the above charges seem steep, consider this: the cheapest room at the Ritz, 150 Piccadilly W1 (0171-493 8181, Green Park tube) is £305.50 per night. This does not include breakfast. Prices soar to a mighty £1,111 for a two-bedroom suite. If this is beyond your means, you don't have to stay here: for an extended look at the opulent Louis XVI interior drop in for Afternoon Tea for a bargain £21.



Where to see an elephant on skis

Stephen Wood visits Sestriere as it gears up to host this year's World Skiing Championships



Sestriere: back in 218 BC Hannibal passed this way with his elephant – hence the 'Annifant' logo for the 1997 Championships to be held here

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his morning, the big sign on the main square at Sestriere has changed. Beneath the slogan "Sestriere '9T' and alongside the curious logo of an elephant on skis, it now carries the message "29". That's not the temperature; the sign counts down the days to the beginning of this year's World Skiing Championships at the resort 60 kilometres west of Turin.

If you are skiing in Sestriere this month, you will notice other signs of the coming event. There is a new giant slalom piste running down from Mt Sises next to the famous Kandahar slalom course; a new hotel (for the time being, the athletes' village) has been built near the centre of the resort, and if you arrive from the Turin-Fréjus motorway, you will see construction workers desperately trying to finish the Oulx and Cesena bypasses before the opening ceremony on 2 February. They, at least, are working in the comfort of the valley; last month, while Sestriere got its fair share of the early snow falls, the worst construction job in the world must have been erecting - in a blizzard - the 2,000-seat grandstand on the blue run down to Borgata (temporarily reserved for bulldozers) for the finish line of the downhill and Super-G courses.

Sestriere is a special case this year, because of the World Championship. But every summer, when the skiers aren't there, every resort works on improvements for the following winter. If you go back to La Plagne this year, you'll be surprised to find a snowboarding "Snow Park" that wasn't there last season; at Sliver Creek, Colorado, you will encounter a new hazard, the fleet of snowbikes it has imported; at les Deux Alpes, you may spot the new dustbin sheds, "in the shape of miniature chalets and built from traditional materials". At almost every resort you will find improved ski lifts, and more snow cannons.

The 1995/6 season at Sestriere ended on 21 April. By the time this season started, exactly seven months later, the management company Sestriere Spa - wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by the car manufacturer Fiat - had made improvements at four of the group of ski areas it runs. At Sauze d'Oulx, Claviere and Sestriere itself the lifts have been upgraded; at Sansicario, a sound-wave system for dislodging avalanches has been installed; and at Sestriere, the automatic system for firing the snow-cannons has been extended to cover the Monte Motta area.

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the beginning of the decade, but without increasing their number – which has in fact shrunk from about 100 to 71. The new lifts are faster, and bigger (four-seater chairlifts rather than two-seaters). That's good for the customer, but good for the business, too - replace a couple of small lifts with a big one, and you halve the labour force required. Automatic snow-cannons are also a labour-saving device: they sense when the temperature and humidity are suitable for snow-making (usually at night), and then switch themselves on.

Unlike, say, at Les Arcs, where the decision to install lavatories on the slopes was the result of market research, Sestriere does not survey customers' needs. The marketing manager, Sam Laurent, consults the local reps, and the improvement in the area's piste signs was one response to their requests. But Laurent's main concern is what he wants: more hotel beds – of which there are only 7,000 in Sestriere and the neighbouring resorts.

That's why the most important development for Sestriere this year is the World Championship itself: rather than being an interruption in the normal business of catering for recreational skiers (a

Sestriere Spa has been improving its lifts since factor which makes many resorts reluctant to stage big race events), it is part of the resort's long-term plans. A spokesman for the race organisers, Ste-British] holidaymakers".

Sestriere's proximity to Turin gives it a curious problem. At weekends it attracts crowds of Italian day-trippers, with whom the lifts have to cope; but because it has had limited success in attracting foreign holidaymakers, there are few hotel beds. Sestriere Spa runs only the ski slopes, although for historical reasons (Fiat originally created Sestriere in the Thirties as a holiday resort for its own workforce) it also owns the original hotel buildings. To make full use of its ski lift network, the resort needs more investment in hotelbuilding and infrastructure, and more foreign customers staying for a whole week.

The first stage of the plan has already worked out: for the first World Championship to be held in the country since 1985 at Bormio, the Italian government chipped in an £8.2m investment (hence the local road improvements). Whether the curious name: "Annifant".

event will, ultimately, bring in the non-Italian skiers, I couldn't say - but they wouldn't be disappointed by Sestriere. At first sight, the skiing fano Coscia, explained that it is hosting the World
Championship "to raise the image of Sestriere, in
order to bring in Northern European [mainly]

seems too obvious, with a lot of blues and reds running down the open, north-west-facing slope to the
order to bring in Northern European [mainly] above Borgata - or, via the cable car, to the underrated Sauze d'Oulx area - there are some excellent red runs that dash across the snow-bowls and drop down through the trees on wide, sweeping pistes. The other good thing about Sestriere is that it caters for Italians; it's difficult to eat badly there.

Up in the Anfiteatro in last month's blizzards. and feverish with flu, I did a fair imitation of the World Championship logo, the elephant on skis.
That figure seems inappropriate for an event involving the world's best ski racers, but it refers to Hannibal, who is supposed to have passed through – well, at least near – Sestriere on his way across the Alps in 218BC. The elephant was originally to bear his name, but a canny Italian company had already registered it. So the curious fig-ure which is counting the days to Sestriere's World Championship has been blessed with an even more

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CACTING

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It may be icy outside, but all is sweetness and light in the seed catalogues. By Anna Pavord rimroses are blooming every-where in the garden, with patches of blue Cowichan prim-

ulas raised from a strain of Barnhaven seed. There are still flowers on a dotty red 'Ernest Markham' clematis that has forgotten to check the date on its calendar, and the April-flowering ceanothus Trewithen Blue on the west wall is in full bloom. Doubtless it will end in tears, but if plants are prepared to be optimistic, so am I.

When optimism is in the air, seed catalogues are at their most seductive. Seed merchants do not make their fortunes by telling you how difficult certain things are to grow well. In the pages of their catalogues, all is sweetness and light. Glorious, choice, exquisite, outstanding, lovely, showy and distinctive are the adjectives they reach for. So, increasingly, is "dwarf". As we are not getting any closer to the ground ourselves, this is a perverse trend, and I hope it will not go too far. It cannot be more satisfactory to have three squash-faced, miniaturised plants where one decent-sized one will do the job rather more elegantly.

Sweetpeas are always on my shopping list and there are some stunning old varieties still available. 'Wiltshire Ripple' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.59) is one of my favourites, with white flowers veined and very finely edged with plum. Last season I grew one of the most strongly scented of the old varieties, 'Matucana' (T&M, £1.69). It's two shades of purple, the wings slightly darker than the centre. It was introduced into this country around 1700 by a Sicilian monk.

The old varieties don't flower with the same vigour as the modern sweetpeas, nor are their flowers so big. But the scent is often stronger and the colouring more intriguing. If you want to pick masses each week, you should include a modern variety such as the unbeatable pale blue 'Charlie's Angel' (Unwins, £1.79) - ruf-



Much in fashion, squashes and gourds are delightfully easy to grow from seed

fled, scented, abundant and easy.

The people who name sweetpeas have a curious obsession with TV stars. Terry Wogan' (pink on a cream ground) has been around a long time; Esther Rantzen' seems to have disappeared. New this year is 'Anthea Turner'. described as "a very gorgeous combina-tion of candy pink on a creamy-white background, coupled with a wonderful perfume. A good all-round performer." Or maybe you'd prefer the royal family? 'Black Prince', 'Diana', 'Royal Wedding', 'Royal Baby' and 'Camilla' are all available from Unwins.

Sweetpeas are difficult to work into general planting schemes, and I generally grow them among the vegetables. I had enough this year to cover a couple of hazel

wigwams, too, to decorate the raspberry patch. Sweet peas easily scramble up such supports, though you get the best flowers, with the longest stems, if you train them as cordons on bamboo canes and pinch out all their tendrils.

Sowing the seeds of warmth

The star annual of last summer's garden was Polygonum orientale or prince's feather (Chiltern, £1.32). It grew at an astonishing rate once it had been planted out, and made a tall (6-8ft) branched, hairy plant with pointed leaves and great tassels of drooping, bright rose-pink flow-ers. Think of the clustered, poker arrangement of the flowering stem of an ordinary herbaceous polygonum, loosen it and turn it upside down. It still wouldn't be as elegant as this annual bistort. Actually, it grew around a variegated aralia, among minate. Transplant the seedlings into

equally imposing spikes of the tall white trays and grow them on under cover tobacco flower, Nicotiana sylvestris. If until you can harden them off, ready for you are lucky, it may self-seed. I'm not chancing that, and will raise more plants inside to set out in May.

I didn't grow asters last year, and I missed them. This is one family where short stems are an advantage. Tall asters are often so top-heavy, they collapse unless you stake them. But staked asters look as uncomfortable as guardsmen in too-tight collars, so I'm going for 'Comet Improved Mixed' (Mr Fothergill's, £1.45). It's less than 1ft tall, early into flower, resistant to wilt (good, if it really is) and seems to come from a good mix of colours.

Sow the seed inside in late March. It will take from one to three weeks to ger-

planting out in May. Use them with clary, blue sea lavender and steelyleaved argyranthemums.

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW LAWSON

Eschscholzia, or Californian poppy, needs to be scattered direct where you want the flowers to grow. This sounds simple, labour-saving even - less daunting than the mumbo-jumbo about pricking out, hardening off and the rest that dogs gardeners new to the business of seed-

But it works better in light soil than heavy and it doesn't work at all where there are cats or chickens, unless you net over the patch you have sown. The soil needs to be well raked and bashed down to a fine tilth. The best Californian pop-

pies. I find, are the ones that seed them-Selves. But you have to start somewhere. Try Eschscholaia lobbii 'Moonlight' (95p) new in Mr Fothergill's catalogue this year. It is pale lemon yellow, rather than the bright orange of the standard variety. Full sun and dryish soil will give the best

Squashes and gourds are much in fashion at the moment and are blessedly easy to grow. Last year I grew the ornamental 'Turk's Turban' gourd (Thompson & Morgan, £1,99). The fruits are sitting in a row on the window ledge in the sitting room, striped and mottled in vellow, orange, cream and green. I sowed seeds inside on 14 April, one to a 3in pot, and covered them with cling film until the seeds germinated. I set them outside at the same time as I planted out the courgettes. The gourds went in the cold frame, though, with the aubergines, Thompson & Morgan has five different kinds on offer, including the large bottle gourd (£1.59).

Venidiums, variegated nasturtiums. tobacco flowers and the blue-trumpeted morning glory were among the annual flowers I recommended this time last year. Anne Dodd of Abingdon thought she would try them, and had mixed success.

The venidiums Zulu Prince were a great disappointment," she writes. "They flopped and sulked in a spindly way." Her nasturtiums Jewel of Africa were "consumed by blackfly, except for one plant which has been a delight of variegated leaves and yellow flowers all summer". The tobacco flowers were "a triumph", except that they didn't have any smell.

But the real reason she got in touch was to heap the kind of praises on morning glory that even catalogue writers scarcely dare attempt. Mrs Dodd trained them up a wigwam of thin canes stuck into a large terracotta pot. The seedlings did their usual teenagery sulk, then "we opened the curtains one morning in late August to see dozens of heavenly blue trumpets clustered quite thickly up the canes. By September they were at full throttle. The riot of morning glory more than redeemed the failures." she says. That's the brilliant thing about gardening. There are few seasons when there isn't some triumph to wipe out the little local difficulties.

Thompson & Morgan. Poplar Lane. Ipswich, Suffolk IPS 3BU (01473 688821): Unwins, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4ZZ (01945 588522); Chiltern Seeds. Bortree Stile, Ulverston, Cumbria L412 7PB (01229 581137); Mr Fothergill's, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QB (01638 751887)

Pale skies, bare trees and frosty landscapes

Gina Cowen on the most magical winter gardens to visit

The bleak midwinter may not be the most obvious time to visit gardens, but this time of the year has its own magic. With the leaves gone from the trees and herbaceous borders in retreat, new views unfold and underlying structures emerge in the pale winter light. Bare-branched trees, dark green conifers and frosted hedges cast long shadows from the low-lying sun. The statues, monuments, temples and lakes of some of our finest gardens, such as Stourhead in Wiltshire and Fountains Abbey and shire and Fountains Abbey and on a quiet mystery in these fallow months. In the place of bold and myriad colours, heady scents, profusion and plenty there is space, line, stillness.

Be prepared, on entering this cool world. Unless you have chanced upon one of those glorious mistakes of an English win-

t is cold and bare. The ground ter - a mild, clear pearl of a day is hard. Snow has fallen. - wrap up warm and wear good Frosty wind makes moan. walking shoes. There is nothing worse than trying to have a good time in a state of acute physical discomfort. At Polesden Lacey, one of several National Trust gardens that are open through the winter, it seems the statues have themselves taken this advice and are covered in custom-made protective coats against the cold. The Edwardian gardens, along with the house and estate, were left to the National Trust in 1942 by the society hostess Mrs Ronnie Greville. She is buried outside the walled rose garden and her dogs Studley Royal in Yorkshire, take are in a little cemetery of their own. A small winter garden is sheltered by three Persian ironwood trees and, in early February, is a carpet of bright yellow aconites. There are excellent walks in the grounds, from the gentle Admiral's walk to the wooded hillside beyond where

Hatch, a wonderfully dingle-dell youth hostel from which, any minute, you expect Hansel and

Gretel to emerge. Alice might well emerge from the wonderland of yew topiary at Blickling Hall near Norwich, which even has a cut hedge in the form of a grand piano. Two monumental yew hedges, 370ft long, 20ft high and 15ft wide, line the entrance to the Jacobean mansion. More hedges are at Ick-worth Park and Garden in Suffolk, which has a national collection of box, unusual varieties of privet and, hidden amonest the trees in the Silver Garden, large, hexagonal stones poached from the Giant's Causeway.

For fine conifers visit Killerton, where the common Hinoki cypress and Japanese red cedar grow alongside rarer members of the family: the incense cedar and Japanese umbrella pine. These 17 acres of garden, near Exeter in Devon, were first laid out in hidden in the trees is Tanners 1777 by Sir Thomas Acland and his agent John Veitch when the house was rebuilt. Veitch went on to found a famous firm of nurserymen, who searched the world for new plant species and sent many of them home to Killerton. Earlier this century the tradition was continued, with

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Snowdrops at Anglesey Abbey

trophies from Captain Kingdon-Ward's expeditions to the Himalayas. From still further afield, huge tree ferns from New Zealand show their fronds in the fernery at Tatton Park in Cheshire. The 60 acres include Italian and Japanese gardens, an arboretum, a pinetum, an orangery and winter-flowering shrubs. If you're braving the chills of Northumberland, flowers of

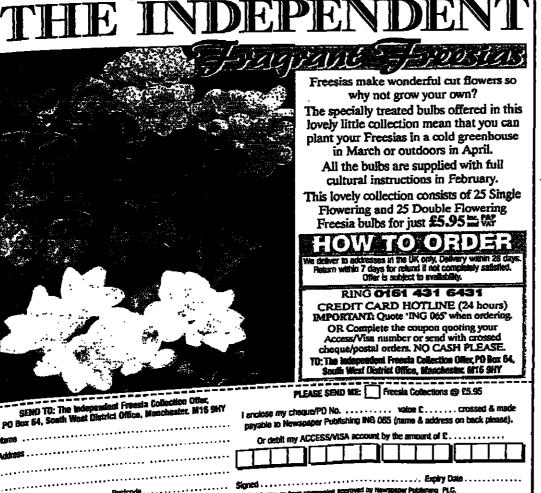
18th-century walled garden at Wallington, near Morpeth. There is also a fine winter garden at Belsay Hall near Newcastle, though Belsay may be best known for its romantic quarry garden leading to a 14th-century castle in the grounds. Forget the TV and warm sofa, and take a walk on the winter side.

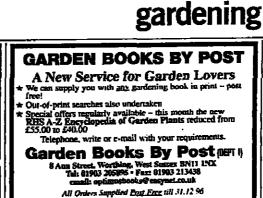
The other side of winter? Spring, with snowdrops as early emblems of its emergence. In their honour, various National

Trust properties that are normally closed during the winter have special "snowdrop openings". Two of these open their gates (for a few hours only) on Sunday, 23 February: Belton House, in Lincolnshire (which featured in the recent BBC adaptation of Pride and Prejudice) and Moseley Old Hall near Wolverhampton (which sheltered Charles II after his disastrous defeat at Worcester in 1651). But snowdrop specialists might prefer to head for Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge where more than 50 varieties "come to light unexpectedly". according to National Trust files, and can be witnessed on three consecutive weekends in February. The truth is out there. Renewal is on its way, even in the bleak midwinter.

English Heritage: Belsay Hull (01661 881636). National Trust: Stourhead (01747 841152); Polesden Lacey (01372 458203): Blickling Hall (01263 733084): Ickworth (01284 735270); Killerton (01392 881345): Tauon Park 01565 750250); Wallington (01670 774283); Belton (01476 566116): Moscley (01902 782808): Anglesey (01223 811200). Youth Hostel: Tanners Hatch (01372

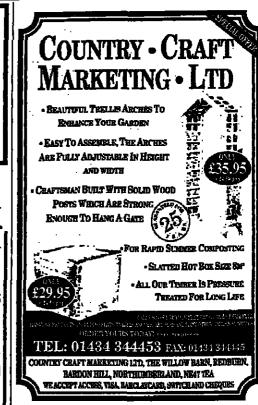
daphne, mahonia, viburnum and hellebore bring interest to the Sir Francis Acland adding new species of rhododendron - floral





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Carbon steel and macho appeal

Old cutlery gives taste to dining, says John Windsor

ielding a knife is one of the few masculine pleasures left. But dissecting grilled bacon or pushing peas with a blunt table knift is not the greatest of thrills.

The answer is to equip your table with antique cutlery. You only have to look at the paintings of Breughel or Bosch, to see the knives hanging from men's belts with a spoon tucked beside them and appreciate that, in more robust times, the knives used to pick up cooked meat were also used for self defence.

Why not eat with such period pieces? After all, if your dining table and chairs are antique, and maybe even your crockery, why be satisfied with anachronistic 20th-century EPNS cutlery?

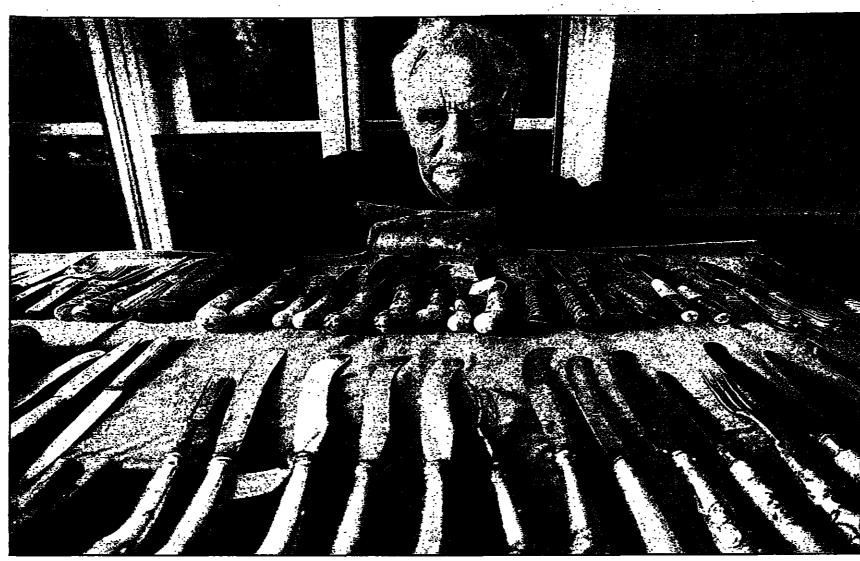
There are, of course, disadvantages. For a start, antique blades made of carbon steel are considered unhygienic. They certainly look it – blackened by citrus fruit, potatoes or vinegar. Some complain that they taint food with a bitter taste.

But anyone hankering after the role of an 18th-century trencherman will put up with such discomfort, and will relish that other characteristic of old carbon blades: cutting edges misshapen by pounding in an old-fashioned knife sharpener, a handcranked wooden drum containing leather flaps, filled with abrasive emery powder.

Confronted by a big private collection of knives, spoons and forks dating back to the Middle Ages, I pick up the most flamboyant-looking table knife, an early-18th-century "scimitar" with spatula blade-tip and silver pistol-grip handle. "Men do like these," says Bill Brown,

Britain's foremost collector. "It's a great, swaggering shape. Terribly elegant." : I thrust the scimitar at a cheese and chutney sandwich. Heavy. It's not as

comfortable as I had anticipated. And the long blade makes cutting feel remote. But it's a great knife to brandish in con-



The scimitar evolved during the period 1700-1730, an interesting watershed in knife design. Before then, people carried their own cutlery. At a 17th-century inn, you would have either used your own or gone hungry. Only royalty and the very rich supplied cutlery to their guests.

The big scimitars kept in wooden canteens in the dining halls of the well-to-do were stretched versions of smaller, bringyour-own knives. "The 18th century was a period of long knives, big eating and big men," says Mr Brown.

having witnessed a fatal stabbing at dinner, ordered the sharp points of knives used at table to be cut off. Soon afterwards, French cutlers began making the tips rounded, then spatulate - just the job for peas and gravy.

The scimitar does seem to have been a much-loved design, for cartoonists showed it in pictures that they drew up to the end of the 1700s and beyond, halfa-century after a more demure French design had usurped it. Mr Brown brings out a Gilray cartoon of 1798, showing There is a tale that Cardinal Richelieu. John Bull devouring warships proffered

by Nelson and his admirals. Gnawing at a ship, he brandishes a scimitar knife. Cartoonists are notorious for being out of date. You can even spot scimitar knives at feasts in The Beano.

You could probably buy a scimitar and fork from a dealer for around £100-£120, but you are unlikely to find a whole table service unless you pay between £3,000 fish-skin "standing" box with knives and houses did sometimes commission hun-with four prongs, used in Italy. dreds of pieces. Keep your eyes open at If you plan to use authentic two-

country house sales and flea markets. Forks? Their use at dinner was considered effeminate until about 1700.

carver to skewer meat. Even in the early 18th century, when their two prongs became curved, they were still too far apart to pick up peas. There were three prongs by the midand £5,000 for a merchant's showy black 18th century and four by the 19th. But,

to confuse pedantic historians. Mr Brown forks upright in velvet-lined slots. Big can show you 16th-century bronze forks

Collector Bill Brown: 'The 18th century was a period of long knives, big eating and big men'

PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIP MEECH

pronged forks, be warned. Mr Brown recalls a recent "18th-century" dinner party where there was "blood all over the table. Someone had stuck a two-pronged fork right through his lip."

To avoid injury, pair your scimitars with 19th-century silver flatware forks (four-pronged). You will in any case have difficulty finding forks that match because, in the days of the scimitar, half the forks were matched with spoons, not

Besides impaling themselves, fashion-able buyers of old cutlery commonly commit the crime of putting it in the dishwasher. The hot water bursts the knives' hollow cast or stamped silver handles, melting the resin inside. The blackened carbon blade falls out of the handle.

How to replace such knife blades in stainless steel?. The trouble is, Mr Brown says, "No one forges knife blades by hand any more, so it's difficult to get blades

made the right shape."

He shows me a 1730 silver pistol grip wrongly fitted with a straight 19th-century blade. Dating cutlery is a bit of a tangle, with styles overlapping and forks being paired first with steel knives, then with silver spoons. But there are four "prime" designs, shown here. First, the mid-17th century cartridge handle: a straight, parallel-edged blade with a point like a Roman short sword; then the scimitar; then the French invader, 1775-1800: a spear-point blade with handle of matching shape. Later, between 1800 and 1820, the broad blade returns, this time parallelsided - a larger version of our familiar

After 1930, says Mr Brown, "the pic ture gets confused."

Before that, they were used mainly by the If you cannot face the scimitar, you can still pick up fine Victorian canteens of silver cutlery, with silver or ivory handles, for less than £1,000.

> 8.000 Years of Cutlery from the Bill Brown Collection', City Museum and Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield, to 30 April: Wed-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 11am-5pm. Bill Brown (0181-650 3933).

Shopping in (French) style

For luxurious sale browsing, why not a weekend in Paris? By James Cusick

Scomprehend the harsh realities of a Visa statement must have uttered at some time or another: "One cannot both feast and become rich." This may be true for the January sales in London, but this year in Paris, after a dismal retail December, the city's sales are forecast to be a veritable

bout of money mayhem. Feasting on the carrion of cut-price purchases in the rue Saint Honoré, the Place Vendôme or the Avenue Montaigne can leave an illusion of ing". These descriptions, wealth, and this year may be the time to carry the illusion to historic extremes. If the impoverished Oscar Wilde (once

make her say it, Lady Bracknell should have said: "If one is not actually wealthy, that is no reason not to stay in a palace."

To "do" the Paris sales in unquestionable style there really is only one suitably palatial destination: the Hotel de Crillon. The guide books jump for

the thesaurus when they try to describe the Crillon, which overlooks the Place de la Concorde: "luxury, elegance, magnificence, imposing, outstandrather than encouraging, tend to scare; but not enough to

Niven, Elizabeth Taylor, Michael Jackson, Bette Davis, and, although not Eva Peron, Madonna - all of whom are former guests.

The thought of Madonna struggling through the 18thcentury Louis XV lobby at the Crillon, drowning in sale bag bargains from Chanel and Dior (Avenue Montaigne), Christian Lacroix and Versace (rue du Faubourg St Honoré) Armani, Hermès, Lagerfeld and Louis Feraud (Place Vendòme), and Thierry Mugler and Ungaro on the Ave Monfrighten Theodore Roosevelt, taigne, either means that Evita without guilt, to the prime Winston Churchill, the Shah of is concentrating on the couture purpose of living among the

omeone wise enough to staying at l'Hotel in the rue des Iran, Charlie Chaplin, Sophia houses of the Right Bank, or High Society grace of a Kelly. Comprehend the harsh Beaux Arts) did not in fact Loren, Jackie Kennedy, David that she is trying to save on cab The Crillon's location, overfares from the Crillon. From her early New York

days Madonna may have visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where one of the Crillon's original wood-panelled rooms is on permanent display. It may take some time before one of Granada's Welcome Break motorway suites reaches such heights, but this is the point of the illusion of wealth: the economics of the sales should not be confused with Calvinistic sensibility; the dosh saved on the goods can be philosophically transferred. without guilt, to the prime

looking the obelisk of Luxor in the middle of the Place de La Concorde, was initially supposed to be the masterpiece of the architect Jacques-Ange Gabriel, set in Louis XV Square. The French revolution changed the name of the square and much else. Now

France's history is a morning's stroll from the Crillon: past the Tuileries, the nearby Louvre museum, and the Arc de Triomphe. In January, such a journey will only complicate the business of looking for redand-white Solde signs in famous shop windows. Once you have worn your-

self out shopping, you will find that the Crillon, still privately owned by the French Concorde Hotel Group, has all the haven-like comfort of a diplomatic residency. Unlike the architecture of the current wave of super-hotels which seem to take their style from theme-park extravagance, the Crillon's public rooms, such as the Winter Garden tea room and the Piano bar, are quiet, understated. While the prices of the formidable Restaurant les Ambassadeurs might scare even Marco Pierre White, you can always order the full Crillon breakfast in your room. This can only be described as one of the world's great breakfasts: more a catwalk of cuisine than simple coffee and toast. The waiters, in full morning dress tails, who lift the silver lids off your poached eggs, know they are engaged in royal theatre. In 1815 Hazlitt remarked: "The art of life is to know how to enjoy a little

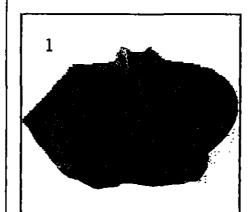
and endure much." Keep that in mind when the credit card overheats.

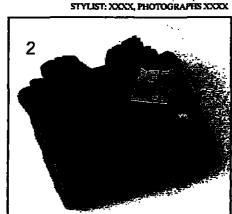
For details of the Crillon's special winter rates, call 33 1 44 71 For travel to Paris on the

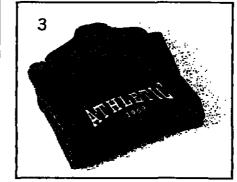
Details of Paris sales may be obtained from the Office du Tourisme, 127 Avenue des Champs-Elysées, Paris (33-1-47 20 88 98). Assistance is provided in English).

Six of the best

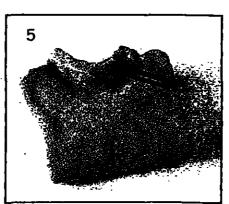
fleeces

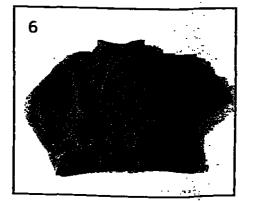












£42, from Gap, 208 Regent Street, London W1 and Red fleecy top with zip neck, elasticated waist and cuff and side pockets, £27.50, available from Sava Center branches nationwide (enquiries, 01734 778000).

2 Blue fleecy jacket with Musto, available from Zip front and zip pockets, Lillywhites, Piccadilly, London, W1 (enquiries 01268 491 555). £75, by Helly Hansen, from Ocean Leisure, 100 The Highway, London E1 and other stores nationwide (enquiries, 0115 9509508).

Sage green turtle-neck Officecy top, £49, by Jiesaw Menswear, 9-10 Floral Street, Red hooded fleecy top London WC2 and branches with embroidered logo,

branches nationwide

nationwide (0171-240 5651).

6 Orange fleecy jacket, £35, from Marks & Spencer, (enquiries, 0800-427 789), Oxford Street, London W1 Yellow fleecy top with contrast navy collar and zip pockets, £69.95, by and branches nationwide, (0171-935 4422).



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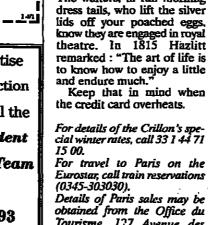
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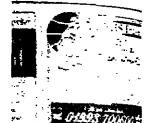
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It's all in the bag Tea - the latest style accessory. By Jane Furnival his tea is cool. It's pungent, with spicy, sophisticated topnotes, but an afterbite like a dog on a postman's backside. The feeling is one of wellbeing: a purring pussycat by the fire, as comforting as a

mother stroking your fevered brow." This is the new way to talk about tea. It is borrowed from wine-makers and aromatherapy smell-speak and is used here to describe Roi des Earl Grey one - of the trendiest trophy teas to hit Britain. The tea is made by Mariage Frères – a French company now setting up its pitch at Dickins & Jones, London – and costs £5.25 for a small 100g packet.

Workers' tea, the usual Indian stuff strong enough for a mouse to skate across, is giving way to an increasing diversity of expensive, esoteric, style-accessory teas and coffees. Now our tastebuds are tuned up so that we can call a wine "flinty" or a fragrance "transparent,"

You find it most obviously in herbal teas. Twinings latest range boasts the delicious "blackcurrant, ginseng and vanilla" and "elderflower, strawberry and rose". It's as if they serve as a drink, a medicine and an air freshener.

The French, with their perfumery expertise, are much better than us at fussing around with fragrant fashion teas. Mariage Frères boasts 450 tea blends, including "Fantasy Teas" which perform tricks in the cup: jasmine blossoms which come to life, orange peel which swells. Tea pots change hands at a shameless £50, and their tea shops are so elegant and arty that they make ours look like Spar Shops.

Couture tea bags are the speciality of another Paris company, Betjeman and Barton. We use muslin, no recycled bleached paper," confides David Bernstein, who imports the tea for his company Morel Brothers. "Pure unbleached cotton sewn individually, not thumped out. And our leaves aren't pulverised like the rest."

Though they look as pretty as potpourri in the cup, I confess the difference in taste isn't worth nearly £5 for the pack. The Tea Council point out that every-

day tea bags are small miracles of geography, containing over 25 teas from around the world. "But ninety per cent of teas are dead", says Edward Bramah, founder of the Bramah Tea and Coffee Museum, near London's Design Museum. He sells "orthodox" teas, meaning correctly picked withered and fermented. Any tea can go wrong if it is picked when there is too much dew on the leaves, causing it to over-ferment or become dull and flat through over-firing.

Edward Bramah himself usually drinks a real Assam, which he says is "smooth and malty". A Cevion should be "more flowery". One of the fashion words for tea-tasting is "brightness" in the cup, a characteristic colour of China and Kenyan

The most passionate Real Tea campaigner is Anthony Wild, who revived the four hundred year-old name of the East India Company for his historical teas, and



also sells pure coffee as drunk by Napoleon on the tiny island of St Helena. Anthony discovered that we have been drinking the wrong Earl Grey for cen-

The legend goes that Earl Grey was £20, spiced itself up using bergamot, then unknown to the Chinese. The real secret ingredient is neroli oil, "with an aroma like a freshly peeled orange". His real orthodox tea is available through Past Times.

Purists should drink a particular tea in its season, and from a named estate, suggests mail order tea company Williamson and Magor. "I find that often in the trade, people offer single estate teas but they don't name the estate," complains Ron Knell, the Managing Director.

"We offer our own named estates. If you like a particular tea and want to follow it up, you want to know the name of the estate and the period it's been picked." Williamson and Magor's brochure is redolent with romance: elegiven the recipe after saving a Chinese phants and tigers roam its plantations, and mandarin's life in the 1790s. But this we are introduced to individual estate recipe, sold to Jackson's of Piccadilly for managers - though the really fashionable would want to specify the names of their

personal tea-pickers too. Tea bushes, like runner beans, have several flushes or growths of leaves. Second flush leaves are best for every tea except Darjeeling, whose prime first flush leaves, picked from mid March until the end of April, are described by devotees as "penetrating muscatel".

Then you should switch to Assam, at its best "bold, brisk, malty" character from mid May until early June. What next? Iced tea for the summer, perhaps

Coffee is also dividing and multiplying its tastes, aromatherapising itself. "We're looking at flavoured Da Vinci syrups from America like vanilla and nuts to add to coffee," reports Waitrose's coffee buyer. sweeter caramel tastes". Blends include

world is the Seattle Coffee Company, a British café and coffee chain whose coffee syrups include toasted marshmallow and cherry mocha.

"We're educating people into a whole different style of coffee," says regional manager Robert Ford. "You should treat coffee like wine. Our coffee comes in different strengths and whole, semi and skinny milk." Degrees of milkiness are so fine that they offer a latticino, half way between cappuccino and a caffe latte (an espresso with whipped milk and a cap of froth).

Seattle's secret is the best Arabica beans rather than the usual cheap, bitter Robusta and an usually long "full city roast", which gives "darker, richer, "We're also selling ginger syrup in coffee the Windsor, which uses aged beans for Clove Building, Maguire Street, Butler's shops: add to cappuccino and it's heaven." an effect equivalent to an oak-casked Wharf. London SE1 (0171-378 0222).

The Ben and Jerry's of the coffee wine. They also offer a couture coffee Café open 10-6 daily. Phone for mail

> chocolate overtones." Still need the stuff intravenously? Tesco's have a lovely cappuccino for 01582 664440 for free mail order brochure around a pound, It's not a drink, It's a bubble bath.

Sumatra Lintong, "an earthy flavour with

Mariage Frères: Dickins & Jones, 224 Regent Street, London WI (0171-734 7070). 55 blends stocked, mail order possible. For full list write to 91 rue Alexandre-Dumás, 75020 Paris, France or call 00

331 40 09 81 18; fax 00 331 40 09 88 15. stockist.

Latteo Milk Whisp,

Good thing £14.99 Bodum's new milk frother does not demand that you add eye of newt and toe of frog and jump up and down three times

under a full moon to get the desired bubbles. Just pour in warmed milk and move the plunger up and down. £14.99 Call 01451 810460 for stockists.

Mad thing Muji Aluminium

mug, £4.50.Whoever designed this should be made to use it as a punishment. It conducts heat to the user's fingers, and is ridiculously

overpriced. Even in Brixton Prison they use china. Muji adds that it's not meant for hot liquids, but that's not said in the shop.

Sure thing

For tea made precisely to your taste, Mariage Freres will mix your "own label" if you buy each ingredient tea by the 100g. Price from about £2.50. Dickins and Jones, 224 Regent Street. London W1 (0171-734 7070). For the coffee equivalent

try the Seattle Coffee Company (0171-495 5531).

Betjeman & Barton tea can be bought from Morel Bros. Cobbett & Son. Call 0171-346 0046 for free brochure, including Savoy coffee.

Bramah Tea and Coffee Museum, The tasting course by mail, working up to the order.

Williamson & Magor. 7 Portland Close, Townsend Industrial Estate. Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 5AW. Call which includes many pretty accessories.

East India Company tea is available through Past Times shops or call 01993 770440 for mail order.

Seattle Coffee Co. 3 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FA. Call 0171-495 5531 for free mail order brochure (coffee costs around £3.90 for 802) and nearest national

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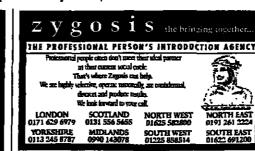
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Rolls-Royce redux



Right: ushering in a new era for Rolls-Royce cars, chief executive

At long last, Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars are to be made on an assembly line. But the craftsman tradition continues. By Gavin Green

Ford gave the world the moving production line, Rolls-Royce has followed. That dedicated

next year to make the next generation fourdoor Rolls-Rovee and Bentley models, to go on sale in 1998. Not that Rolls-Royce has discarded its hand-built reputation. Rather, extra space at the Crewe factory is now devoted to the craftsmen who cut and stitch the leather, and to earpenters who work with the walnut, elm, mahogany, redwood and birdseve maple (or, for that matter, any other wood the customer may specify) for door trims

Rolls' chief executive, the appropriately named Chris Woodwark, is keen to stress than the new cars will be no more mass-made than the current Silver Dawn or Bentley Brooklands models. "At the moment, our bodies are supplied from Rover in Cowley, so we're about to make in-house what we have brought in from outside," says Mr Woodwark, who is the former boss of Rover's international operations and, before that, head of Rover in America. "In fact, our cars will become more bespoke. My goal is for no two Rolls-Royce cars to be the same. We'll achieve this differentiation through a variety of paint colours, trims, spec-

ore than 70 years after Henry ifications, wheels, tyres, carpets and wood fin-

In addition, the Mulliner Park Ward wing the coach makers of the Crewe factory - will follower of the old-fashioned modify your Rolls or Bentley in any way you has finally entered the 20th century - a few want (at a price, of course). "We'll paint your The new moving line is due to be finished if that's really what you want," says Mr Woodwark. Thankfully, most of the work is far more tasteful. Popular modifications include bulletproof glass, drinks cabinets, fax machines, TV sets, exotic wooden dash finishes and longer wheelbases and higher roofs.

"We want to make Rolls-Royces more individually crafted so that they're very different from mass-made German or Japanese luxury cars. We also want to be recognised as making the world's finest cars." Mr Woodwark doesn't claim that now. How can he, when the current Silver Dawn (in fact just a rebadged and mildly altered Silver Spirit) goes back more than 16 years and technically isn't in the same league as the latest hi-tech BMW, Mercedes or Lexus luxury cars?

His strategy is to concentrate on the handmade luxury touches, rather than try to beat the Germans in technology. "We don't really compete with the likes of Mercedes, anyway. Most of our customers own Mercedes cars as well. They often use the Mercedes for every day, and the Rolls for special occasions." Mr Woodwark likens a Rolls to a pricey mechan-

ical watch such as a Rolex, and a Mercedes to decade, probably using BMW power. a precision quartz: the quartz may do a better everyday job, but there is something marvellously desirable about the Rolex - if you can

Mr Woodwark is one of the new breed of bloke, open and friendly, like Peter Ward, his predecessor. Mr Ward left in the wake of the decision to collaborate with BMW in the manufacture of new Rolls and Bentley engines. He favoured Mercedes as a partner, and had shaken on a deal with the Stuttgart maker. BMW reversed the decision after pulling strings with the aero-engine wing of Rolls-Royce and with Vickers, Rolls' owner. Mr Ward now runs Cunard, the shipping operator.

Mr Woodwark defends the decision to source Rolls and Bentley engines from BMW. We want to concentrate on what we can make best - and that's the hand-crafted part of the car," he says. "Other things we will source from the world's top suppliers. BMW is renowned as a marvellous engine maker."

The next generation Rolls-Royce will use the BMW V12, suitably modified for use in a Rolls, while the new four-door Bentley will Bentley is expected sometime early next mass production.

Registration Numbers

Mazda

A few years back, when Rolls was run by stiff-collared bosses who acted like Edwardian bank managers, all visitors were ushered though a tradesmen's entrance at the side of the Crewe building. Only royal guests and entrance at the front. That's all changed under Mr Ward and Mr Woodwark, as Rolls hunts new-money customers and loosens its collar a little. The boss now eats in the staff canteen and does regular tours of the factory. Despite its reputation, Rolls is actually one of the least upstairs/downstairs car makers in

Mr Woodwark moves on next spring, moving up the ladder at Vickers. His replacement is Graham Morris, another ex-Rover man who joins from a short stint at Audi in Germany. He's another everyday, friendly bloke, not

given to airs. The top Rolls job has also taken on extra importance, now that almost every other British car maker has been sold to foreign firms. In turnover, Rolls is now Britain's biggest indigenous maker, as well as being its most famous. The fact that the company also get a twin-turbo version of BMW's V8
engine. Two-door Bentley models, including the Continental T, will continue to use
Crewe-built V8 motors. A new two-door

BMW's V8
builds the most traditionally British of cars is a nice bonus. Nothing will change that not even now they've adopted an assembly process that was invented by the father of

motoring





Road test **Bentley Continental**

(how does 15mpg at best sound?) and about as discreet as a frock-coat and top hat at a rave party, the Bentley Continental T (shown above) is possibly the most outlandish coupé in the world. Yet, if you've got the money, it's also

one of the very best. It's a source of wonder just how such a big and heavy car can feel so agile and go so quickly. You sit up high, with the 4x4 and MPV drivers, lord of all you survey. And yet when you want to play racing driver, one twitch of your right foot and the Bentley erupts with afterburners aglow, accelerating with frightening force. And it just keeps on accelerating, gathering momentum like a tidal wave on wheels.

Yet there is nothing crude about the performance. The engine and automatic gearbox combine to form a seamless source of urge; I have never driven an automatic car in which acceleration is delivered so immediately and, when you're under way, with such smoothness and strength. The thin leather rim, so soft to

onstrously fast, ob-scenely expensive, hideously gluttonous and the high seating position. Physics dictate that the Bentley shouldn't do the things that it does. To hell with physics. Don't ask me how a car weighing more than two tons can feel as sharp as a

small hatch. But this one does. Inside, the Connolly leather upholstered seats are as wide and as thick as armchairs, Little electric controls move them every which way. The carpet is thick lambswool (you can also specify Wilton), and the dash is a massive thing, as deep as a cliff, full of little

round chrome bezelled dials. Normally, Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars have great planks of wood facing the driver; on the Continental T it's a sheet of engine-turned alloy. Not quite as traditional as burr walnut. Most people I drove in the Conti hated the metal - a big shiny thing full of little squirly bits. But it's an attempt by Bentley to show just what they can do with natural materials, and thus the versatility of the Crewe craftsmen.

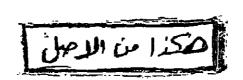
The steering wheel has a sumption 15mpg.

hold, and the steering is light yet direct. Unsurprisingly, underneath the vast bonnet it is full of engine - a huge turbocharged V8, good for 400bhp. As a sop to traditionalists, it's cranked into life by a starter button, not by merely turning a key.

It is easy to pour scorn on so extravagant a car. But I loved it. The car is so palpably the work of craftsmen; a machine assembled and designed with great thought and skill: some-thing wholly superior to the lit-tle hatches to which most of us are consigned.

It is also so overtly British, at a time when most cars made in this country are indistinguishable from those made elsewhere. And it shows the vitality of Rolls-Royce, not so very long ago a quaint Edwar-dian leftover; it is now bang in the upper echelons of the highperformance supercar league.

Continental £220,312. 6.75-litre turbocharged V8 engine, 400bhp. top speed 155mph, 0-60mph in 5.8 seconds, average fuel con-



homes & money

Best to borrow best to save.....20 Tessa treats21 Living alone: boom in homes for singles .. 22

nyone who bought shares in emerging markets in 1996 has had the by now familiar rollercoaster ride. Those who picked the right markets have done handsomely. handsomely.

The markets in Russia, Venezuela, Hungary and China were all up by 100 per cent or so in dollar terms. Brazil and Poland both managed about 50 per cent, each. On the other side of the ledger the markets to be the ledger th ledger, the markets to have avoided included Chile, India, South Korea and Thailand, which all fell sharply.

The last two are now both at their lowest points for more than three years, reflecting the general waning of investors' enthusiasm for the Asian tigers, and underlining why it is a mistake to think of emerging markets as a single cohesive investment class.

The bald statistics for last year fail to do full justice to some dra-daily share-price movements after



coup in Pakistan, for example, and high political drama elsewhere, including Russia, the biggest potential stock market of them all. In China, the authorities were forced to impose a 10 per cent limit on outside the Dhaka stock exchange

The trick now is to choose between value and fashion

market. In Bangladesh, where a wild speculative frenzy sent the local stock market up by 300 per cent in three months before the bubble burst, shares were bought and sold like poultry in the road - all rather reminiscent, in its way, matic events on the ground - a a panic on the Shenzhen stock of Kaffir mania at the turn of the

century, when brokers in the City found. The Templeton style is to be market shares is still growing. Not traded shares in the latest speculative South African mining stocks in the street outside the London Stock

pleton's highly successful emerging market funds, was in London for a day or so recently en route from (I think) Brazil to Russia.

Templeton is a stockpicking firm, not a "topdown" investor. In emerging markets, as in all its funds, the company sticks scrupu-lously to the research-led discipline which served its founder, the philanthropist Sir John Templeton, so well over so many years. The philosophy is to buy individual shares that look cheap, not to make big bets on particular markets: to diversify across a broad range of countries and sectors; and to look after the Mexican devaluation -

prepared to wait for five years, if necessary, for the value of a share only are increasing numbers of institutional investors being manto be reflected in the price.

Mobius is still bullish about the outlook for emerging markets. His research team reckons that there is erate quite significant domestic Where will the emerging markets go this year? Mark Mobius, the energetic polymath who runs Tem-Hong Kong is at the top of Templeton's buy list at the moment. The market was up by a third last year, but lingering anxiety about the impact of the switch to Chinese rule this year continues to throw up a lot of bargains for value investors. Mobius thinks that the price of many shares in Argentina and Brazil, two other markets which recovered strongly last year, is also

very attractive. the so-called "tequila effect" which saw large numbers of US investors repatriating their money for bargains wherever they can be underlying demand for emerging avoided like the plague.

dated to invest overseas, but many of the leading emerging markets

This in turn is helping to reinforce the third key characteristic of emerging markets, which is their low correlation with the established stock-markets in New York. London and so on. It is easy to think that the flood of money into emerging markets over the past few years is simply a reflection of the exciting growth prospects of many

of the countries involved. That is only part of the story. Secondly, says Mobius, despite Just as important has been the powerful diversification argument which has convinced many institutional investors to invest in countries which they would once have

If anything, according to Templeton's research, this trend is accelerating, rather than diminishing. Local buyers are increasingly creating speculative bubbles of the kind recently seen in Bangladesh. That not only creates further volatility but also creates the conditions for prices to get out of line with underlying value - ideal conditions says Mobius, for bargain-hunting outside investors who can distinguish value from fashion.

If he is right, as I suspect he is. it means that the rollercoaster ride is set to continue for a while yet. But don't be fooled into thinking that the risks are somehow no longer there.

If you must play this game, either stick to countries you genuinely know something about, or opt for a broadly diversified fund or investment trust - and prepare to treat the twin impostors with the equanimity urged by Kipling.

Taking care of risks

How can I ensure my family won't suffer if I'm ill?

Welcome to the New Year and to a new advice service. Bryan Fisher, an inde-pendent financial adviser, starts a regular column today answering readers' questions. Readers are very welcome to write in for advice, but letters should not exceed 250 words please!

UESTION: You may think that I am being rather pessimistic, however, please let me explain my circumstances. I am 42 years of age currently and run a profitable consultancy practice. My wife is not involved in the business and is very much a full-time mother looking after our four young children. We have a super home on which the mortgage is

currently approximately £90,000.

My concern is that if anything happens to my health I would not be able to meet our monthly financial commitments. I have savings of approximately £7,000 in the building society and about £4,000 in shares. However this would not last too long should I be unable to work.

My biggest concern is that several members of my father's family have suffered from heart problems. I need to look at covering any potential risk that I or my family may be facing. Can you

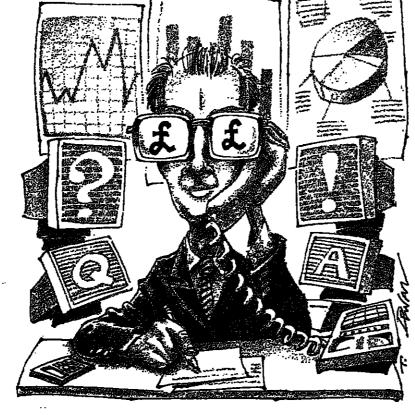
Oxford

NSWER I think you are being extremely responsible to address any potential prob-Llem. The question you have to ask is what would happen to your current standard of living if for example you had a heart attack? You have an endowment mortgage which has life insurance built into it, but this will not pay out on diagnosis of a heart attack.

Almost every expense you currently have will continue. The situation is likely to cause severe financial discomfort in less than six months even taking into account the savings you have made.

Incapacity benefit is now much more difficult to claim than the old invalidity benefit. To qualify for benefits you must be incapable of carrying out "any" occupation and not just your own. Even if you are successful with your

claim the benefit level certainly would not be enough to meet your existing financial commitments. There are two areas for protection that you will need to examine:



Income Protection (PHI)

This cover pays out a tax-free benefit which normally allows you to cover approximately 50-70 per cent of your income. There are various deferment periods which determine when the income starts being paid, following an accident or the onset of illness. The cover should ideally run to the age of 65 and be index-linked so that it will keep pace with inflation.

Critical Illness Protection This is a relatively new form of cover, only 5 per cent of people in the UK have

any form of cover at this moment. Every year in the UK over half a million people will be diagnosed with either cancer, heart attack or a stroke. Many of these people will become financially dependent upon friends, charities or rel-

Critical Illness Protection will create ance only and no action should be taken with a tax-free lump sum on diagnosis of a eife and professional advice.

range of serious illnesses for example: heart attack, cancer and stroke.

I would strongly suggest that both you and your wife apply for cover and at least cover the mortgage.

This needs to be the absolute mini-

mum sum assured that is applied for and will ensure that should either of you suffer a serious/critical illness, at least the burden of paying the mortgage will be removed.

I would also stress that the insurance companies underwriting procedure on both types of cover is very tough and therefore there is no guarantee of cover being offered.

Bryan Fisher is an Independent Financial Adviser and the Financial Planning Manager at Berkeley Financial Planning in Coveragy. He is authorised to give independe

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Pension providers have a long way to go before they can convince the majority of investors that they are not being shortchanged

Last year was another satisfactory one for most investors in shares and trusts, with the FTSE index of the top 100 shares recording a gross return of 16 per cent including divi-

Many unit and investment trusts will have provided a decent return, especially those which invest mainly or wholly in North America, the Far East excluding Japan, and emerging

But the investment industry can never rest on its laurels. Unit trusts on average traditionally underperform the FTSE index which is why tracker funds which follow the index have proved so attractive, combining guaranteed average performance with low

UK pension funds have also underperformed the index, with an average gross return of only 11 per cent last year.

This is mainly due to the strength of sterling which reduced the value of investments abroad, a cautious approach to US and UK shares, which led many pension funds to be under-invested in both markets and the lower declare the regular manage- spread suspicion that some



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They can now buy their annu-

ity from the company which

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ment fees which they charge. returns on cash, bonds and property holdings. But pension providers also have a long But the bulk of investors still feel that they are locked way to go before they convince into a long-term investment way to go before they convince investors that they are not being short-changed by small print and special conditions. Most people paying into a personal pension plan or a company plan based on defined contributions now appreciate that the eventual pension they will receive depends entirely on with the fund they first choose, and that they cannot trust fund managers to treat them fairly if they want to switch investments. Some investors know that when they retire they do not have to buy an immediate will receive depends entirely on how well the funds are annuity, fixed for the rest of

cautious, average or optimistic, which are unpredictable. Pension fund managers now have to give a clear statement of buying an annuity they can of the initial charges they reinvest their pension fund deduct to pay commissions before any of the balance is invested. They also have to 75. There is, however, a wide-

invested, and that all projec-

tions depend on assumptions,

arbitrary charge on the adjusted value of the funds they release, over which the investor has no control and which does not appear on the list of published charges. charge a monthly policy fee which reduces the gross bonus

their annuity and opting for income drawdown will also cost them around 5 per cent of their fund in transfer charges. There are too many other

cases of investments where between the illusion and the reality the shadow falls. With-profits bonds are a tra-

investors who want profesand years to give a smoother not fall over a five-year period. ride than unit trusts or invest-Bonuses once awarded

cannot be lost again and current headline bonus rates of the UK market fell over each almost 10 per cent look quite of the five-year periods which attractive. of the five-year periods which ended in 1974 to 1978.

They also know that instead Norwich Union is currently advertising a gross bonus rate 23 per cent chance of one or proceeds and take income at of 10.5 per cent, Scottish other market falling over five least until they reach the age of Mutual 10 per cent and Commercial Union 9 per cent.

But Kevin Mills, a partner at

insurance companies, levy an independent financial advisers Holden Meehan, points out that bonus rates are not always what they claim.

These three companies Few know that deferring rate by almost 1 per cent for between five and seven years, matters to investors. Ask Holden Meehan (0117-925-2874) for a free comparison fact sheet.

We have to mention guaranteed High Income bonds ditional investment for investors' capital provided one sional management, and risks market indices, usually the spread over a range of sectors FTSE100 or the Dow Jones, do

Most stress that both indices ment trusts for example, which have have shown some growth rise and fall with stock markets. over any five-year period since 1984. But the Institute of Actuaries has just pointed out that

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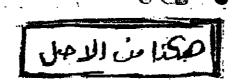
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Invested Bank (UK)	HICA 5000	instant		5.25
Halifax BS	Asset Reserve	Instant	£10,000	4.25
Chelsea BS	Classic Postal	Instant	£10,000	4.50
FIEDRIE				
Portman BS	Fixed Interest Bond Year Plus Fixed Rate		£500 £5.000	6.60F 7.00F
Bristol & West BS Birmingham Midshires	Fixed Rate Bond	2 Year	250.000	7.05F
Coventry BS	Fixed Rate Bond		£1,000	7.30F
FRST HSSAS				
Sun Banking Corp	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years		7.50F
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Investec Bank (UK)		5 years	•	7.20
Birmingham Midshires	Inflation Beater	5 years	£1,000	7.00
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Sun Banking Corporation	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£9,000	7.50F
NatWest Bank	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years		7.45F
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N'castle Bank Gibraltar		Instant	£25,000	6.30
Northern Rock, Guern	Offshore 30	30 day	£10,000	6.55
Birmingham Mids Guern		31/1/98		6.85F
Northern Rock, Guern	Millennium Bond	1/1/00	210,000	7.50F
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		7.45 to 1/1/02			
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Jemos effect

Small is beautiful with Tessa

To cash in or roll over, it's decsion time for our favourite investment, writes Clifford German

Maturing Tessas (Tax-Exempt Special Savings Accounts) were the hottest financial property for weeks on end twelve months ago when the the first Tessas taken out in 1991 qualified for their tax-free

Things are a bit different this year. The new crop of Tessas maturing in 1997 were started in 1992, and investors who took out a variable rate Tessas then missed the boat of initially high interest rates which attracted almost £12bn in Tessas in 1991.

The best guess is that some-thing like £5bn worth of Tessas mature in 1997, and the redemption in January 1997, average pay-out for the maximum investment of £9,000 spread over five years will be around £11.500, compared with an average £12,000 for the early birds who invested in

attract the maturing funds, but individual investors still have to decide what to do with their pay-outs. Investors interest they have earned on a maturing Tessas, but they are year ago. allowed to keep the capital in a (taxable) deposit account for up to six months before The best provider of Tessas deciding to reinvest the capital in a roll-over Tessas.

If last year is any guide around 70 per cent will simply be reinvested straightaway in follow-on Tessas and in spite of the publicity the wide range of 90 providers identified by performances received, most accounts were rolled over with the same provider, usually newly maturing Tessas is their "local" bank or building £11,491, which is about £500 society, reflecting the inertia less than the first Tessas matuaffecting long-term savers.

Investors with maturing Tessas they wish to re-invest need to decide two things. Should freedom to transfer maturing relatively poor homes for Tes-funds without penalties and sas. The TSB (now part of

Bristol-based adviser

Hargreaves Lansdown has

accounts still available which

would be eligible for a cash

or share bonus if the society

Specialist traders Beale

Dobie who buy and sell

second-hand endowment

with Friends Provident.

Widows and Standard

from bonuses if the companies convert to

policies are tipping policies

Scottish Amicable, Scottish

Life as possible beneficiaries

public companies. Policies

Personal pensions will once again be the hortest financial products

in 1997, according to indepen-

dent financial advisers polled by

More than 40 per cent tipped personal pensions, compared with 45 per cent in 1996. Just 19

per cent fancied PEPS might be

PEPS could come into their own presumably if a rush develops to buy before the end of the

current tax year, and again at the

start of the next tax year by

investors who fear that an incom-

ing Labour government could put a ceiling on the total amount

the top product in demand.

Close Fund Management.

with Scottish Provident,

NPI and Scottish Life

could benefit from

takeover bids.

is taken over or converts to a bank. Readers can get

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produced an up-to-date guide to building society shop around for a better rate Lloyds) did best, taking 26th with a different provider? And should they go for a fixed rate which will not change over the next five years or take a chance on a variable rate, which the provider is free to raise or lower at their own convenience?

The evidence suggests that small providers try harder and offer better rates. The best Tessas which will be maturing in 1997 came from small providers, just as they did in 1996. But only five of the top ten variable-rate Tessas maturing in January 1996 are also in the top ten just coming up for according to Moneyfacts, the data-base providers for the

financial services industry. Hanley Economic Building Society jumps from 49th place a year ago to top place for variable-rate Tessas maturing next With fewer Tessas maturing month, and will be returning there is less of a scramble to savers a juicy £11,917.62 taxfree on a maximum investment of £9,000 made over the past five years. Julian Hodge Bank comes in second, with are not allowed to reinvest the £11,804.37, up from fourth in the accounts which matured a

> But the past is not always the best guide to the future. which matured a year ago was Kent Reliance Building Society which paid out £12,400 for maximum holdings in January 1996. In the latest list however it has dropped to 15th out of Moneyfacts. The average return on

rities paid out twelve months ago, but the range between best and worst is again over £1,000. Sadly the big clearing they take advantage of the banks come out once again as

change

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investment bond to generate

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Nationwide Building

Society has raised rates for

savers by up to 1.1 per cent.

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90-day notice accounts get

savings and Tessas 6.5 per

of tax-free assets an investor

Guaranteed products came in

equal second most popular prod-

uct, also winning 19 per cent of the vote. Healthcare and critical

illness products won 15 per cent

Around 4 per cent of the IFAs

tipped income drawdown prod-

ucts as the most popular product this year, down from 6 per cent

The election is their clients

main concern in 1997, according

to 30 per cent of IFAs, followed

by the possible volatility of the

4 per cent, and regular

cent, all on £2,000.

could accumulate.

Pensions top demand

investment is £10,000.

and General Accident Life

place with an estimated payout of £11,613.28. Royal Bank of Scotland takes 56th place. closely followed by Abbey National, but Natwest is only 73rd, Barclays 78th, Lloyds 80th, Bank of Scotland 84th, Clydesdale 85th, Midland 89th and in this list Co-operative Bank, last of all with a pay-out

it was 69th). The best current rates on roll-over Tessas are around 7 per cent on variable-rate same as they were offering a 180 days lost interest. accounts, and are actually year ago. lower than they were earning a year ago, when the best rates ranged from 7.5 per cent to as high as 8 per cent (from Northern Rock). But an esti-

mated 40 per cent of roll-over proceeds went into fixed-rate Tessas in 1996, reflecting the inevitable disappointment that investors in variable-rate Tessas felt over the virtual halving of interest rates payable on the first variable-rate Tessas taken out in 1991 by the time they matured.

The best fixed-rate Tessas of just £10.839.82. (A year ago ing Corporation) for the next five years, which is much the

But investors with maturing maybe three, of the next five money up.

years. If rates rise significantly they might well do better to roll over into a variable-rate Tessas in 1997 and keep their options open.

Virtually all providers will charge transfer penalties on savers who want to switch their Tessas in mid-stream.

Charges vary, but they can be as little as £25-50 to get out currently on offer pay up to
7.5 per cent (from Sun Bankanyone trying to get out of a anyone trying to get out of a fixed-rate Tessa usually faces substantial penalties of up to

This year, more than ever, it might be worth inquiring Tessas in 1997 may well be what the transfer charges are looking forward to a rise in as well as the rates of interest interest rates over at least two, on offer before tying the

Rank	iable-rate TESSAS ma	£ Maturity Value	
1	Hanley Economic BS		Ranking in 1996
		11,917.62	49
2	Julian Hodge Bank	11,804,36	4
3	Investec (Allied trust)	11,779.33	9
4 5	Buckinghamshire BS	11,774.27	12
5	Melton Mowbray BS	11,753.94	5
6	National Counties BS	11,744.68	3
7	Tipton & Coseley BS	11,729,77	14
8	Dunfermline BS	11,728.61	2
9	Vernon BS	11,710,73	21
.10	Cheshire BS	11,705.30	18
11	Monmouthshire BS	11.701.51	15
12	Exeter Bank	11,691.94	10

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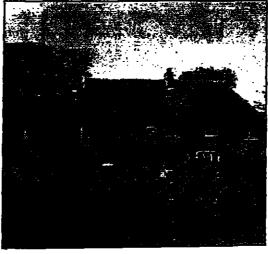
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Room for all the family: the annexe generation of homes. Left, Lilac Cottage, Harmby, North Yorkshire on the market at about £155,000 through GA; top, Old Barn Cottage, Rodmell, near Lewes is for sale at around £215,000 through Humberts; above, Fairlight Cottage, Cirencester, Gloucestershire - details from

Back to the family home

Has the demand for small, box-like homes ended? By Rosalind Russell

orecasters call it "the Waltons effect". Instead of a millennium marked by 4 million of us living alone, as predicted gloomily by the Government, we could swing the other way. We could see a return to three generations of a family sharing the same house, as they do in the sentimental American TV series, The Waltons. Instead of building inner-city one-bedroom flats, goes the theory, developers should be concentrating on five- and six-bedroom houses. It rather scuppers John Gummer's plan for inner-city regeneration to protect green field sites.

But Graeme Leach, of the Henley Centre for Forecasting, says it would depend on the family members getting along. Not everyone has a brother like John-Boy. Not everyone would want a brother like John-Boy.

"We don't think the large gr home owners] the Government is projecting will come to pass," says Graeme Leach, who outlines the Waltons effect in the Centre's newly published Housing Futures. "Economic and social factors are intertwined. Rising affluence in the Eighties permitted people to move out of the family home and buy their own. We don't expect the build-up of economic growth to be as strong over the next few years. The

reversed. We are dubious about the Government's projections and we think they should be

Two major financial factors could encourage living en famille: expensive childcare, and residential care for the elderly, which gobbles up inheritances at £500-plus a week. The two could possibly be resolved by using the equity from the sale of the grandparents' home to buy a bigger house with granny annexe. And while parents are at work, children could be cared for by granny. A sprightly granny, of course, may resist this plan.

"Inheritance is the boom that's never happened," says Leach. "So many couples have had to sell up in advance of one of them dying, while the other goes into residential care, estates are ed on. At some stage, people ma well look at the cost and say hang on, this is daft'.

It may explain a flurry of interest in houses like the one under offer through Hamptons in Broadway, Worcestershire. 110 and 114 High Street are two detached, self-contained cottages linked by a conservatory. The main house has three bedrooms, the annexed cottage two. At offers over £285,000, the price is within the

demand for smaller properties could be reach of two generations, each with a property

This possibility has not gone unnoticed by builders who took the Government at their word in the Eighties - and found themselves burdened with a huge stock of poky studio flats you couldn't give away. They are not about to have their fingers burnt again.

If, however, your family is more Addams Family than Waltons, living alone might seem a better option. And it needn't mean living in

"It's one of the great myths of household projections that single people need small houses," says Roger Humber, director of the House Builders Federation. "The equation is dangerous and wrong. We've had the experience in the Eighties of trying to build specifically sin-

Though 35 per cent of the people who bought flats in Crosby's Brindleyplace development in Birmingham were singles, they wanted at least a second bedroom for friends, family visitors, to use as a home office, or -inextremis - for a lodger. More than 60 per cent of the new or renovated flats Cluttons has sold

in Docklands have two bedrooms. "Young single working men are more likely

to find a one-bedroom flat ideal," says Mr Humber. "They are out a lot. As they begin to cohabit they leapfrog the first-time buyers market, buying bigger properties. Increasingly, late 20s and early 30s buy three-bedroom houses. Mr Gummer drew attention to divorce. But for a divorced 35-year-old mother, a one-bedroom flat is the last thing she wants. And divorced fathers want space for their children's access

Mark Wilkins, a 23-year-old duty manager for Bass Tavern in Birmingham, fits Mr Humber's single-man profile. He bought a one-bedroom flat in Crosby's Symphony Court development. "I'm too busy to worry about looking after a bigger place, and anyway I have enough room to fit in my desk and computer. I don't plan to marry in the near future."

theorists who don't work at the sharp end of the property trade. "Small houses are not a neat solution. We reject the idea that people should be crammed into little boxes on an old, industrial city site, which of course appeals to environmentalists.

"It is a dangerous political illusion. We have got to build bigger houses because people value

Let sunshine bring a profit

Geoffrey Pilgrem on Spanish property

n the mid-Sixties, the British began to buy second homes in significant numbers in Spain's Mediterranean and island resort areas. Since then, the main attraction has remained constant: the feeling of well-being generated by 300 or more days of sun a year.

But every year some of some of the other incentives - bargain-price properties, low "rates" and utility charges, more or less voluntary taxes, and good food and wine for next to nothing - disappear. That's the price of post-Franco progress and levelling-up within the EU. Spain's standard of living now equals our own.

For a couple of decades, the running costs of a mainstream villa or apartment in Spain were considered insignificant. It was the norm for British owners to pay a local gestor, a legal administrator, to settle all regular bills, while kith and kin enjoyed the place a few times a year, leaving it locked and unused until the next visit. But times have changed and, increasingly, owners are prepared to let their properties to cover

outgoings.

David Scott, an agent specialising in the Nerja region of Andalucia, explains: "I don't sell property as an investment. People buy for pleasure, not profit. But in the late Eighties up to a third of of my buyers began to enquire about rental potential to defray overheads. Now they all ask." And how many actually rent out their homes for part of the year?
"They all do," he says. "So I now offer my clients a rental

This trend is not to be confused with the professional business of investment in holiday accommodation. And it's only a distant relative of peak season relocation - the practice of some canny expats (particularly in Ibiza) villas with pools, move into something basic and pocket a few grand a week in rent.

Clearly, not all resort homes have the same letting potential. What helps? As always, that cliched but brutally accurate phrase applies: Position, Position

Services

and Position. Less than an hour from an airport; on or near a golf course; within sight, sound and an easy walk of the sea; close to amenities but out of earshot of late-night hilarity - these are the unsurprising essentials for successful letting. But they are not enough on their own.

Steve Williams of IPC. which sells property in Tenerife and the Costa Blanca, says that a reliable climate is an obvious factor for easy rental. "The weather on Tenerife is good year-round; so a return of 9 per cent on a new twobedroom home is achievable. The long season south of Alicante helps rentals there, too." And Mr Williams is clear that grouped houses and apartments in small, lowrise complexes return a higher percentage of the purchase price than most

individual villas. Over the last four years a *ueblo* of a dozen twobedroom linked houses has achieved occupancy levels for his owners which Conrad Hilton would have envied: 70 per cent overall, hitting 89 per cent in June, July, August, September, at Easter and at Christmas.

The Marbella-based agent Geoffrey Knight reports that gross weekly rentals on well-located, twobedroom apartments in peak season are between £400 and £600. Three- or four-bedroom villas with pools fetch about double, and returns of £12,000 to £18,000 annually are common (as they are in Ibiza, with real estate prices and cachet similar to that stretch of the Costa del Sol). Rental commissions are typically 10 per cent of gross income invoiced, and 15 per cent to include full

maintenance. One prediction can be made with confidence. The sun will continue to shine on favoured parts of Spain for 300 or more days a year. The demand for civilised self-catering homes under a increase - and, luckily for owners, so are the rental

David Scott International 01279 792162; IPC Property Consultants 0181 642 4376; Geoffrey Knight & Associates 00345 2823059.

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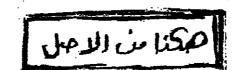
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TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON, AND WHEN, TOMORROW READ TODAY'S EYE,

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The return of Kieran Prendiville's immensely popular drama series set in county Wicklow sees romance blossom at the village play - BBC1



Rebecca

Charles Dance, Diana Rigg and Faye Dunaway know the meaning of ham in this favishly camp romp through Daphne Du Maurier's pot-boiler - ITV



La Belle Noiseuse

Emmanuelle Béart poses nude for blocked painter Michel Piccoli in Jacques Rivette's mesmerising, four-hour magnum opus on art and life - C4



An Eye Full for 97

Your complete guide to entertainment, television and radio over the next seven days. Plus, our critics make their predictions for 1997



Serena Mackesy In my week

against the

festive season, and here is mine: don't go anywhere by aeroplane. Don't even think about it. It will only end Heathrow, in the closing stages of the year. I'm on my

veryone has their post-

facto tips for a painless

way north to bond with the relics. Everything seems to be going swimmingly. I have remembered to pack both toothbrush and vest, have charmed a cab driver into taking me all the way for £20 and am even, as a result, early. I'm in a good mood. First mistake.

Terminal One heaves with waddling travellers, which makes my mood even sunnier. The sight of people hauling masking-tape-sealed suitcases on broken straps always makes The ice-cube on broken straps always makes me feel grown-up and sophisticated. I amble to the domestic has melted flights queue and smirk as the couple in front of me

and is go through the "What do you mean you boiling thought you had thought you had haven't got them?", "I them" pantomime.

At the desk, I hand over my ticket to small of my Aberdeen. The British Airways representative back. I can glances at it, clacks a couple of letters into feel my her keyboard and says "You're travelling with someone else." "Nope." "Oh." she says. "I've got you down as in a group. Still. I'll give you an airda got you gove you an airda got you go airda got you go airda got you son an arrow you an airda got you go airda got "Strawahi

change from you an aisle seat." Strangely, this rings no alarm bells. I seasoned thank her, wave goodbye to my bag and stroll off to traveller to partake of those peculiar joys available in airports. wild-eyed

An hour later, me, my teeny bottles of glop, biographies of terrorist socks are enjoying a prawn sandwich that cost the gross national product of Sarawak and listening to a trio of Aer Lingus trolley dollies as they discuss their recent assessment.

"She tried to tell me," says one, "to get my hair cut. I said, look, I'll wear any style you like, but I'm not losing my best asset for you." "D you know what she did to Gloria?" says another. "Only gave her the

number of Weight Watchers. Said she'd be having trouble getting up the aisles." I glance at the clock and see it's 20 minutes to my flight. Head for the x-ray machines. I'm queueing with my boarding pass when something makes me glance at it. Feel like someone's dropped an ice cube down the back of my jumper. Printed in the "TO" section is one word: "Belfast". Under

words "Mackie A Mrs". Now, after long experience of the World's Favourite Airline, I am used to the concept of mislaid luggage. This is the first time they've actually lost me. I race back to the check-in desks, barge to the front while the queue mutters "I say" and "Did you see that?".

"Name of Passenger" are the

Everyone seems unconcerned. "It's all right," they say. "The Belfast flight has



been delayed by a few minutes. You've plenty of time." "But I'm not going to Belfast. I'm going to Aberdeen." She looks doubtful. "We've got you booked to go to Belfast, Mrs Mackie. In a group." "I'm not A Mackie. I'm S Mackesy. Look. My ticket says Aberdeen." "Oh."

The ice cube has melted and is boiling against the small of my back. I can feel my expression change from seasoned traveller to wild-eyed terrorist. "We'll just get you off the Belfast flight," she says. It's 10 minutes to the projected takeoff for Dyce. "Can you call the Aberdeen gate and tell them I'm on my way?" She gets one of those I-know-what-I'mdoing looks. I start hopping from foot to foot. Wonder why God saw fit to give me a name

that brings on dyslexia in the reader. A couple of phone calls later, she smiles reassuringly. "Your bag's not going to Belfast." "Oh, good." I consider saying something sarky about the explosives contained within but remember how

po-faced people in airports get about that sort of joke. I ask how I'm going to get it back. "You'll have to sort that out at Aberdeen," she says. Ninety minutes later,

blotched from a quarter bottle of claret and the screams of a red-baired infant encountering its sinuses for the first time, I'm kissing the tarmac in the land of my fathers. The immediate forebear is waiting mildmanneredly in arrivals. We pace the terminal until we find a sign saying "British Airways Customer Services". A young woman is playing with her computer. After a minute or

> help you?" I explain my predicament. She finally honours me with a glance of pure disdain. "So you were going to Belfast and you've managed to end up here?" I sigh. Try again. Suggest she check the telex

so, without looking

up, she says "Can Ì

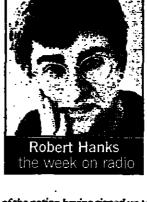
machine. She pulls a face, leans over. "Ah," she says, "You're Mrs Mackie." "No. Mrs Mackie is probably in Belfast now. I'm here." "And you were supposed to be going to Belfast." The inner me now resembles a Munch woodcut. Back home, awaiting my

case and watching EastEnders while everyone else carouses at a party, I open the BA Comments form that has accompanied my hand baggage. The front bears a picture of a smiling earth suspended in a deep blue universe. "How," says the legend below, "do we make you feel?" I find a green pen, search my vocabulary for dvsphemisms, fill the space with swear-words. Then I screw it up and throw it on the fire. Fortunately. I had the prescience to collect two of the things.

Ooh er. There go our morals

f there is a hell, it will be full of people like Anne Atkins ~ I don't think there's much room for disagreement on that. The question is, will they be the punished, burning in pits of sul-phur as a penalty for overweening righteousness, or the punishment for the rest of us, just sitting there and looking smug for all eternity? Actually, I'm starting to get the feeling that this is already happening - first she's on the Today programme, nominated as personality of the year for no better reason than that she has denied that you can practise Christianity and homosexuality at the same time; and then she turns up on Liberal Britain on Trial (Radio 4, Thursday), promoting the idea, if that isn't too strong a word, that sexual freedom leads to child abuse and murder. So it's possible that I'm dead and paying for my mis-

deeds - somebody, pinch me. Liberal Britain on Trial is a series of three programmes testing the proposition that the problems of modern society identified by Nick Clarke as crime, family breakdown, divorce, delinguency and dependency on welfare - are the result



of the nation having signed up to doctrines of individual freedom. Each programme is conducted, very loosely, like a trial - there is a prosecutor and a defender, witnesses are called and crossexamined, and every so often Judge Clarke says things like "Objection sustained". This week, the charge was "Sexual freedom has broken many of the links that bind society together and distorted relationships. It has undermined the family and

Of course, if this had been a proper trial there would have (she pointed out that young been some agreed standard of men have 20 times as much the vicar.

corroded morality.

case for the prosecution would have been thrown out in the first five minutes. She turned out to have no material evidence or witnesses with direct experience of the sexual freedom she was talking about. What she needed was some victim to point the finger and say "That's him! He's the one who ruined my life!" while in the dock Liberal Britain twirled its moustachies like wicked Sir Jasper. Instead, she produced Bob and Sue, who have had their ups and downs but have never regretted their 27 years of marriage, and members of an organisation called Youth for Christ who believe that sex is all right only within a context of emotional commitment. And of course, Mrs Aikins, asserting that to allow some freedom necessarily leads to unlimited freedom, including the freedom to

In addition to vacuity, we had self-contradiction: Ms Kenny herself suggested that marriage is necessary to tame young men, who would otherwise certainly be promiscuous

abuse and murder children.

evidence, and Mary Kenny's testosterone as young women, which I had always thought was to do with testosterone being a male hormone). One of her witnesses, a barrister called George Brown, maintained that marriage was important because nature demands that children have a father. So which is it - is marriage there to thwart nature. or to fulfil it?

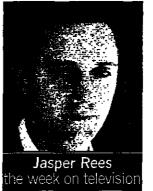
All in all, this was a fairly pathetic case, only watertight when it was circular (if you think marriage is necessarily a moral thing then of course more liberal divorce laws are immoral), and never persuasive. Polly Toynbee, defending, spent most of her time leaning on the goalposts having a quiet chat with the linesman, only occasionally having to scoop up the ball and roll it back to the opposition, who mostly responded by running off up the field and scoring an own goal. On the other hand, it did make for riveting listening and reminded you along the way of the best justification for sexual repression: it's much, much funnier than anything that could replace it. But cops, I'm off to

Set co-ordinates for 1860, again

s was mentioned in this A space last week, Simon Callow's theatrical readings in An Audience with Charles Dickens (BBC2, ended Mon) gave a shrewd idea of how our ancestors staved off boredom in the evenings. Not much has changed, mind. For anyone too lazy to pick up the book themselves, you can still get your 19th-century fiction fil-leted and plattered for con-sumption. The only important innovation is that, for a modern audience, wearing a bonnet is optional.

The BBC drama department of a novel published in 1868, and began 1997 with a novel published in 1860. Years come, years go, and on New Year's Eve television does its best to join in the annual Big Bender. But some things never change: frocks are still on the box. Thank God the novel was invented as recently as the 18th century. Not too many classic conversions to go. By the end of the millennium, Andrew Davies will have adapted the lot, and maybe the odd original drama will reach the screen. Fingers crossed they won't all

Mon). A mere 24 hours before ITV screened Cuts (Tues), a comedy about a television comowest common denominator.



here was that policy made flesh on the same channel. You could ended 1996 with an adaptation call just about any thriller Element of Doubt and get away with it, from The Moonstone (BBC2, Sun and Mon) onwards, but there are some things a title can't cover up for. Hooked on red herrings? This was the repast for you. The plot was basically a filch from Hitchcock's Spellbound: nice wife suspects her suave husband is trying to shuffle off her mortal coil. Wrongly suspects, in the movie. Rightly, in this shopsoiled bit of off-the-peg Carltoniana. The wife smelled a rat when she discovered that her husband was furtively taking a be like Element of Doubt (ITV, contraceptive drug. Just to make sure she wouldn't conceive, he drowned her in the bath. Works every time. Nigel pany's shameless pursuit of the Havers - who else? - must make a New Year resolution to

do something similar to his The watery end in The Mill

on the Floss (BBC1, Wed) was a more gorgeous, lyrical affair. We consume a lot of plots in this day and age, and in the interval since your reviewer last gobbled up this one, he'd completely forgotten that the Tulliver siblings drown in a flood. Quite frankly, this George Eliot fella would never have got his script past Timothy West's media mogul in Cuts. It made you think too much. And what happened to the standard nuptial send-off? As for Emily Watson playing the moral quandary that is Maggie. she let the side down horribly with a performance of such piercing, unornamented hon-esty that the actors charged with playing the men in her life tended to blend in with the woodpanelling (excepting Bernard Hill, whose proud. profitless father stirred a distant memory of Yosser Hughes).

years apart, spot the differences between that and $T\!i\omega$ Moonstone. Even more than his brothel-creeping companion Dickens, it was Wilkie Collins who wrote for television before was invented. Without Sergeant Cuff, a bachelor with a passion for his rose garden (overdone to a tee by Antony Sher), how many quirky detec-

Though published only eight

screen? (That other stock Collins figure, the lawyer you can trust, doesn't seem to have come down to us). It's nice to see the genre has evolved a bit since the author's day. The Moonstone is a cracking read partly because its characters are readers, participants in the oneon-one transaction we call literature: they send each other notes and letters which drive the plot forward far better on the page than they do on film. Television has always puzzled how to turn the sight of someone reading into an inclusive, social experience. An Audience with Charles Dickens got close. The Moonstone didn L There was more old wine in

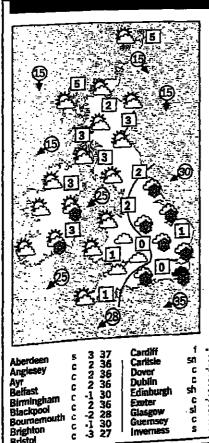
new bottles from Steve Coogan

would have since occupied your

and Eddie Izzard. Coogan's The Tony Ferrino Phenomenon (BBC2, Wed) continued his rewarding love-hate relationship with light entertainment in the form of a louche Portuguese crooner who falls out with his guests. He must have been watching too much Alan Partridge. Cows (C4, Wcd). about an upwardly mobile herd, found one of lzzard's extemporised flights of surrealism solidifying into an hourlong pilot. Somewhere between Wodehouse's Blandings and Orwell's Animal Farm, it spares Andrew Davies the trouble of tives with telegenic hobbies having to convert either.



WEATHER



General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

Pressure will remain high near Iceland. A depression over southeast France will drift east while a small low moves south across the Baltic. Today, the whole of Scotland and the islands will

get some sunshine, but there will be a chilly breeze with one or two light wintry showers. Northern Ireland is going to get some sunshine, but with a chilly northeast breeze and the chance of a light snow England and Wales will get a cold northeast wind. A lot of cloud and showery snow can be expected to

the east, but the west should be dry with some sunshine. Sunday will see a little sleet or snow in the east, but most places are going to be dry. The wind will be lighter, but after a frosty start it is going to be cold.

Monday and Tuesday promise dry weather and light breezes. However, it will stay cold with frost at night and patchy freezing tog in the mornings. Little change is then expected through the middle of the week with the weather remaining settled. It will,

though, stay cold with some frost and fog. sn -2 28 s -1 30 c 3 37 c 2 36 c 2 36 c -2 28 s 4 39 c 3 37 c 2 36 1 30 2 36 2 28 2 36 3 37 3 27 2 36 1 34 1 34 Ipswich
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Exeter
Glasgow
Guernsey

WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c, cloudy; f, fair; fg, fog; hz, hzzy

Amsterdam Athens Auckland Bangkok Barcelona Bernt Begrade Berlin *Bernmida Bombay Brussels *Budapest *Buenos Alres Cairo Town Casablanca Christchurch Cocenhagen c -/ L3 † 124 75 \$ 33 91 \$ 11 52 \$ 20 68 \$ 27 19 \$ 29 84 \$ 27 28 m -6 21 c d -5 237 c 22 264 f 130 86 s -8 18 s 230 652 m 4 255 m 4 255 s 11 534 s 12 344 s 23 68 s 17 68 7 -2 28 3 30 86 5 20 68 5 23 73 7 15 59 † 19 66 5 -5 23 † 16 61 7 25 77 Majorca f 12 54
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*Mismi f 27 81
Moscow sn-11 12
Munich hz -5 23

Martin In McDonagh The Independent a second next week triumph?

Barbra Streisand film success recaptured?

4:16pm to 8:15am 4:08pm to 8:17am to 8:23am to 8:29am to 8:45am

M5 Gloucestershire, J13 Strond (A419 Stonehouse), major readworks on the june tion roundabout with only one lane onen. expect delays at times on leaving or joining the MS. MS City of Edinburgh. J2 Newbridge Spur (M9), major roadworks. Down to two lanes on the roundabout. Delays likely on all approaches.

Lancashire AS9, Liverpool Road, Much Hook. Resurfacing work with temporary traffic lights will cause daytime delays near Bretherton Island. A3 Surrey. Hogs Back (A31), long term

roadworks at the Stag Hill Flyover are now continuing until the end of February. Various restrictions in operation.

Out and about with AA Roadwater cal 0235 401 for the latest local and re-tional traffic news, Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 39p per min (cheap rate) 49p per min (all other times)

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blue-white Bellatrix at the other. Rigel marks the kneeling figure's foot, and Saiph his knee. Mintaka, Alnilam and Alnitak, three in a row, form an obvious belt. Fainter stars mark out a raised hand brandishing a club and a shield or tion's skin on the other one.

The constellation Orion,

mythical figure superimposed.

rion is one of the few

constellations whose shape

is truly suggestive of the

figure traditionally associated with

Betelgeuse at one shoulder of the

giant hunter contrasts with brillians

it. The red supergiant star

View looking SE to S about 10p.m this week

A sharp eye on the "sword" hanging from Orion's belt will detect not just point-like stars, but a hazy patch of diffuse light. Binoculars will show it up even better. This is the famous Nebula, a glowing cloud of interstellar gas 1,300 light years away. lit up by the blaze of light from newly formed stars. The luminous nebula is just part of a complex of interstellar matter that occupies much of the constellation of Orion.

Magnitude scale

First
Second
Third

- Fourth

New Moon: January 9 Moon sets 12:42pm

Changes: Bowie at 50 Sat 10pm BBC2 Futurewatch Sun 11,30pm BBC1

Rebecca Sun 8pm ITV



The big picture

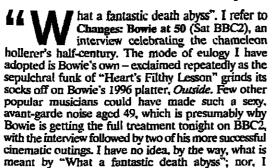
Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence Sat 10.45pm BBC2

David Bowie's acting career has had its fair share of lows, including his risible singing-codpiece turn as the Goblin King in Labyrinth. But here is one of his best turns, as the British Major Jack, resident of a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. embroiled in an exhausting and disturbing battle of wills with his opposite number, Captain Yonoi (well played by Ryuichi Sakamoto, who also composed the infuriatingly catchy theme music). Beautifully dark and troubling.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend

by Steven Poole



using a quasi-Burroughsian "cut-up" process.

Despite presenter Alan Yentob's pious attempts to turn the conversation into a duffer's lecture on aesthetics for beardy pointy-heads, Bowie is in splendid

suspect, does Mr Bowie, since he writes most of his lyrics

hat a fantastic death abyss". I refer to Pretension", and grimaces at the memory of Let's Dance tions (like, in 30 years' time we'll be able to download and how it shot him to global superstardom ("artistically and aesthetically my lowest point"). This is all intermingled with familiar and rare archive footage, including a video from Bowie's late-1980s heavy-metal band, Tin Machine, Watch this carefully, because as Bowie gyrates in a heard and sharp suit, scowling into the camera, he looks exactly like Clint Eastwood.

The programme ends with computer screenshots of Bowie's website, driving home the point that he is an artist still managing to gild the cage of his present, rather than settle into the lounge of his past with pipe and slip-pers. Anxiety about the future, on the other hand, is the mison d'être of Futurewatch (Sun BBC1), a new series that peers over "the scientific horizon" to confront "the moral issues of the 21st century". Don't worry unduly about how you could peer over a horizon. because even though this programme is fronted by Michael Buerk (of *The Moral Maxe* fame), it makes an good humour. "I'm not an original thinker," he declares, from under a new ginger-flat-top hairstyle. He reminisces happily about the days with Brian Eno in Berlin, where they glibly founded "the New School of Futurewatch has to make some pretty dodgy assumptions." I'm not an original thinker," he Michael Buerk (of The Moral Maze fame), it makes an her lips. Not an ounce of intelligence or subtle direction, but it's very classily photographed, are stay the course of Sunday's opener, you'll be good to the conclusion on Monday night.

our personalities onto chips) before its arguments can even start. But when they do, they're great fun. My favourite panellist is the eminently sensible Rosalind Miles. "I can't help remembering vaginal deodorants," she chirrups. A propos of what? I won't spoil it for you.

If you're sent into palpitations of futureshock by all this, and the mimsy Oirishry of Ballykissangel (Sun BBC1) just makes you sick, you can seek refuge in yet another glossy period melodrama, Rebecca (Sun ITV). Daphne Du Maurier's potboiler is, as you know, rather like Jane Evre rewritten by a bastard test-tube fusion of Barbara Cartland and Agatha Christie, and so it makes for fruitily irreverent television. Charles Dance, lord of the manor is, as usual, graceful and wooden simultaneously (good trick, that), while poor Diana Rigg camps it up something obscene as Mrs Danvers, for-ever hiding under stairs with an evil grin playing across her lips. Not an ounce of intelligence or subtlety in the direction, but it's very classily photographed, and if you stay the course of Sunday's opener, you'll be good and



The big match Man Utd v Tottenham Sun 4pm BBC1

Old Trafford's undersoil heating means this clash should go ahead despite the big freeze. It's the first time the two sides have met in the FA Cup for 17 years, but Spurs' current form is woeful, having endured a six-goal drubbing at Newcastle last weekend. Well adrift in the Premiership, this is Tottenham's last chance to salvage something from the season. United's midfield star David Beckham (above) will not be underestimating his opposition: "You never know what will happen. I think it will be a great game."

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

7.05 The Pink Panther (R) (7719891). 7.25 News and Weather (3103297). * 7.30 Defenders of the Earth (2708839). 7.50 Speed Racer (R) (2702655). * 8.15 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (R) (8582278). * 8.40 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S) (2796365). * 9.15 Live and Kicking (S) (20119013). 12.12 Weather (7241346).

12.15 Grandstand. 12.20 Football Focus - Gary Lineker previews this weekend's FA Cup third-round matches, which include Manchester United's tricky home tie against Spurs. 1.00 News, 1.05 Geoffrey Boycott. 1.15 Darts - First-round coverage of the World Professional Championship at Frimley Green, where number one seed Martin Adams is in action. 1.55 Speed Skating. 2.45Rugby Union -Leicester v Toulouse in the semi-final of the European Cup. Plus, highlights of Ireland v Italy at Lansdowne Road. 4.45 Final Score. (S) (21368810).

5.20 News, Weather (9509926). * 5.30 Local News and Sport (181181).

5.35 Cartoon (751181). 5.45 The Simpsons. Bart catches Homer on camera in a compromising situation (S) (230013). *

6.10 Due South. Benton Fraser returns in a new series of the lovely Canadian-mountie yarns. Tonight we go all Shakespearean and cross-dressing – our hero disguises himself as a schoolmistress in order to track down a missing girl (S) (240297). *

6.55 Noel's House Party. Givin' it large with some crucial rhythmic beats, he's a dance-floor wizard oh no, it's not that sort of house party. The Lightning Seeds provide the "music" (901425). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Dale Winton introduces

the lads from East 17 (S) (338617). * 8.05 Casualty. Aristocrat grief (S) (168100). *
8.55 News and Sport, Weather (Followed by National

Lottery Update) (464891). * 9.15 FIEL Accidental Meeting (Michael Zinberg 1994 US). Made-for-TV distaff reworking of Strangers on a Train, with Linda Gray and Linda Purl the ill-met women who unwisely joke about swapping

murders. Predictable (819568). 10.45 Match of the Day. Highlights of Premiership strugglers Coventry City's tricky FA Cup third-round lights of Arsenal v Sunderland (S) (8157966). *

12.00 The Frank Skinner Show (R) (S) (99211). 12.30 The Creeping Flesh (Freddie Francis 1972 UK). Interesting Gothic-Victorian horror fable from Hammer: Peter Cushing discovers a skeleton in Borneo which grows flesh on contact with water. Christopher Lee is not so amused (14853). 2.00 Weather (1177582). To 2.05am.

BBC2

7.10 ESS Parlor, Bedroom and Bath (Edward Sedgwick 1931 US). Second-rate Buster Keaton farce has our man as a vagrant amusingly

introduced to high society (3133636).

8.20 Meet the People (Charles Reisner 1944
US). Little gem of an MGM musical, boasting Dick Powell as welder/playwright "Swanee" Swanson and Lucille Ball as Broadway star Julie Hampton, with a thiffic supporting cast (62946926). 10.00 Chanakya (S) (9115641). 10.35 Network East (S) (6706278). 11.20 Q Asia (S) (5941461).

11.50 A Week to Remember (6777433). 12.00 Michael Barry's Choice Cuts (S) (2172655). 12.10 Films of the Year (S) (9769704). *
12.55 FILM The Bad and the Beautiful (Vincente Minnelli 1952 US). Kirk Douglas stars, in a role

rejected by Clark Gable, as a venal and maliciously ambitious movie producer, while starlet Lana turner, writer Dick Powell and director Barry Sullivan remember how he ruined their careers, A great, sparkily gossipy melodrama to kick off this ifternoon's Minnelli double-bill (34438487). 2.50 EUE Some Came Running (Vincente Minnelli 1958 US). Disillusioned, demobbed writer Frank

Sinatra (of Blue Eyes in one of his more convincing thespian outings) returns to his home town and gets mixed up with a gambler and a high-spirited floozie (Shirley MacLaine). Stylish yarn with an energetic score from Elmer Bernstein (21038636). 5.00 TOTP 2 (S) (9793758).

5.45 Darts: World Championship. Live first-round action from the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, including matches involving number one seed England captain Martin Adams from Market Deeping in Lincolnshire and 1994 champion John Part of Canada (S) (17667723).
7.30 News and Sport, Weather (737839). *

7.45 What the Papers Say (S) (348094). 7.55 Tx (S) (221520). *

9.00 Darts: World Championship (S) (2433). 10.00 Changes: Bowie at 50. See Preview, above (426278). 10.45 Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence (Nagisa

(218075).12.45 Time Ziggy Standust and the Spiders from Mars (DA Pennebaker 1973 US). Documentary - or, if you will, "rockumentary" – recording the legendary 1973 Hammersmith Odeon gig which saw Bowie bid farewell to his Ziggy persona forever. Very silly odd years later, and new students of Britpop may care to watch the late, larnented Mick Ronson on laconic axe melodies, providing a hallowed, neverbettered template for Bernard Butler, Graham Coxon et al (969037). To 2.20am.

Oshima 1982 UK/Jap). See The big picture, above

REGIONS. Wales: 5.45 Wales on Saturday. 6.05 Darts: World Championship. Scot: 2.50 The Flying Vet. 3.10 The Natural World. 4.00 larraidh air Ealasaid.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV (1022297), 9.25 Scratchy and Co (68152365), 11.30 The Chart Show (S) (20723), 12.30 Love Bites (28297), 1.00 News (96635013), * 1.05 Local News (96634384), * 1.10 World of Wonder (95505556). 1.40 Snooker: Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge 1997 (S) (21639471). 3.50 SeaQuest DSV (S) (7471568). * 4.45 News and Results (1873181). * 5.05 Local News (9599549). * 5.10 Cartoon Time (R) (3288051). 5.20 Clueless

5.50 Sabrina the Teenage Witch. Raquel Welch guests as an outrageous aunt (S) (222094). *
6.15 Gladiators. Time at last for the ultimate athletic Armageddon, an end-of-the-universe tangle of exploding limbs and electrified perms – oh, no, it's just the Grand Final between Southern softies and

Northern hard men (and women) (S) (695407). *
7.15 Blind Date. The lovely Cilla (S) (139029). *
8.15 Family Fortunes. The lovely Les (S) (996636). * 8.45 News and National Lottery Update (Followed by Weather) (479723).

9.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night 8. Denis Norden cashes in on the mysterious New Year benevolence of TV commissioners with another excruciating compilation of grinding double entendres and mispronounced polysyllables. There's also lots of clips of cock-ups, of course, from such hardy televisual favourites as Baywatch, Play Your Cards Right, Cheers, London's Burning and Coronation Street (R) (S) (2487). *

10.00 Goodbye My Love. Odd scheduling for a lugubrious drama-documentary about euthanasia. Robert Lindsay stars as Derek Humphry, an Englishman who became a prominent pro-euthanasia campaigner in the USA (codename: Operation Hemlock) after helping his first wife to die. Gwen Humble is his second wife Ann, who assists with her parents' suicide before taking her own life. But Humphry's campaign wasn't in vain, as the state of Oregon finally decided to make euthanasia illegal. The question is: how far can a sympathetic, even campaigning film help the cause when it's fictionalising and distorting the truth?(S) (6365). 12.00 Snooker: Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge

1997. Second semi-final (59414). 1.30 FIRM Florida Straits (Mike Hodges 1986 US). Raul Julia is the leader of a motley group searching the Cuban jungle for a stash of gold buried 20 years

earlier during the Bay of Pigs invasion. With the nice Fred Ward. Dial "a" for alcoholicath. enhancable (if you must) (623259). 3.15 Steptoe and Son (Cliff Owen 1972 UK). Not utterly dreadful spin-off from the TV series. Harold

falls for a stripper, and allows Dad to tag along on their honeymoon. As you do. With Harry H Corbett, Wilfrid Brambell, Carolyn Seymour (954747). 4.55 Cool Vibes (35094037). 5.05 Coach (S) (4747698).

Satellite

The Legendary Journeys (82433), 8.00 Coppers (4704), 8.30 Copp (3839),

9.00 Cops (77013). 9.30 Cop Files

(51549), 10.00 Law and Order (81704), 11.00 The Red Shoe Diaries (52758), 11.30 The Movie Show

(61013), 12.00 LAPO (37495), 12.30 The Lucy Show (98018), 1.00 Dream On (54834), 1.30 The Edge (93211), 2.00-7.00am Hit Mo. Long

7.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (8535487). 8.00 Melrose Place (8448907). 9.00 Pacific Drive

(8451471). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (6055891). 10.30 Tales from

the Crypt (6071839), 11.00 Stand and Deliver (9989407), 11.30 Stand

and Deliver (5675723), 12.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (9542211).

Moon (1964) (57810), 10,00 Run Wild, Run Free (1969) (48029), 12,00 All She Ever Wanted (1996) (47433).

2.00 Trail of Tears (1995) (6/1453). 4.00 Between Love and Honour (1994) (5487). 6.00 Dragomworld (1993) (85520). 8.00 The Brady Bunch Movie (1995) (9/365). 10.00

Before the Night (1995) (34/217297). 12.45 Delta of Venus (1994) (5180501). 1.30 Calendar Girl (1993) (7021). 3.00 Taking the Heart (1992) (74673). 4.30-5.00am Between Love

6.00am Travels of Marco Polo (1993) (9947), 7.00 Big Wheels and Sallor (1970) (37704), 8.00 Son of Lassie (1945) (55452), 10.00 Black Beauty

(1994) (66471). 12.00 The Adven

11994) (66471). 12.00 The Adventures of Yellow Dog (1994) (45075). 2.00 The Magic Bubble (1992) (66146). 4.00 Black Feather (1995) (3029). 6.00 My Girll (1994) (83162). 8.00 The Android Affair (1995) (95907). 10.00 Bad Boys (1995) (51075). 12.00 Foreign Student (1994) (441921). 1.40 Bad Boys (1995) (875650). 3.40.6.000 Bath.

(1995) (875650), 3,40-6,00am Ruby in Paradise (1993) (44552292),

and Honour (1994) (60-495).

HOVE CHANEL

6.00am Shock Treatment (1981) (29346). 8.00 The First Men in the

SKY 2

SKY MOWES

5.30 News (92308). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.05 Sesame Street (R) (4225177). 7.05 Biker Mice from Mars (R) (S) (7580926). 7.35 Sonic the Hedgehog (R) (2999452).

8.00 Trans World Sport (S) (96487). 9.00 The Morning Line. Racing preview (S) (83384). 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (35162).

11.00 Blitz! Gridiron grief (S) (55926). 12.00 TMM The Secret Garden (Fred McLeod Wilcox 1949 US). Margaret O'Brien is the orphan who lives with her widowed uncle (Herbert Marshall) and his paralysed son (Dean Stockwell). Together, the kids nurture Uncle's secret garden back to blooming glory, in this clunking MGM adaptation of

the Frances Hodgson Burnett tale (622384). * 1.40 Racing. Adverse weather conditions have seen the Sandown Park meeting cancelled. Instead, coverage is of the all-weather meeting at Lingfield Park. Live races covered: 1.45; 2.15; 2.45; 3.15; 3.45 (S) (37656988).

4.05 Ben Casey. An episode of this ancient black-andwhite US medical soap (5948704). 5.05 Brookside, Omnibus, Jimmy finally makes his departure, and Georgia finds Nat's ultimatum unbearable (S) (4024452). *

6.30 News, Weather (201704).
6.35 Aug. Murder on the Orient Express (Sidney Lurnet 1974 UK). The stars are stuffed into this velvetplush Agatha Christie adaptation, the best yet filmed, like little oily fish in a can. Albert Finney's wonderful Poirot tries to solve a gruesome trainbound murder. You know the score: Lauren Bacall, Ingrid Bergman, Sean Connery, Vanessa Redgrave,

John Gielgud and Michael York (19067471). *
9.00 The Fragile Heart. A welcome rapid repeat of this thoughtful three-parter in which Nigel Hawthome's successful cardiologist undergoes various ethical and emotional trials (R) (7216384). *

10.15 Klinik! (S) (836433). * 10.30 Bill Body Snatchers (Abel Ferrara 1993 US). Ferrara's reworking of the 1950s B-movie is a masterpiece of alien shock-horror in its own right. Meg Tilly and Garbielle Anwar defend a military base from the monsters... (24668839).

12.05 FIES Space Master X-7 (Edward Bernds 1958

US). Alien-fungus grief in this gormless sci-fi flick, starring Bill Williams as the scientist examining the space-rock goo. Good title, tho' (6508216). *

1.20 This The Shopworn Argel (HC Potter 1938 US). James Stewart is a naive Texan soldier who falls in way to fight in World War One. The stars work

some magic with a dire script (197259). 2.55 Title The Search (Fred Zinnemann 1948 US). American GI Monty Clift (debuting here on the big screen) helps a 10-year-old Czech refugee (Ivan Jandi) recover in post-war Germany. Intelligent and not over-sentimental drama (910143). 4.50 Mr Don and Mr George (R) (71261414).

ITV/Regions

ANGLIA
As London except: 1.04pm Anglia Air Watch (82700190). 1.10 Film: Murder in Three Acts (60483393). 5.04 Anglia Air Watch (6670515). 5.05 Anglia News and Sport (8419138). 12.45am Film: The World is Full of Married Men (101252). 2.25am Camal Knowledge (8232320). 3.25am Film: Eleni (609146). 5.25-5.55am Hell and High Water: the Making of Cutthroat (stand (1177691).

CHANNEL 3 RORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE
As London except: 1.10pm Film: Murder in
Three Acts (60483393). 5.10 Channel 3 North
East: Full Time (5713138), Yorks: Scoreline
(5713138). 9.04 Yorks: Local Weather
(857751). 11.10 The Making of Moll Flanders
(615770). 11.40 Laffs at the Baths (228428).

12.10am Film: The Woman in Red (505225):
1.45am Film: The Woman in Red (505225):
1.45am Film: Business (58788): 2.15am Film:
Jock of the Bushveld (942558): 4.10am
Pushing the Limits: The Making of Eraser
(47951900): 4.40-5.55am Film: Melody Time As London except: 1.10pm Film: Murder in Three Acts (60483393), 5.05 Central News (6679886), 5.10-5.20pm The Central Match – Goals Extra (5713138).

AS London except: 1.10pm Film: Murder in Three Acts (60483393). 5.05 HTV News and Sport (8419138). 12.45am Film: The World is Full of Married Men (101252). 2.25am Carnal Knowledge (8232320). 3.25am Film: Eleni (609146). 5.25-5.55am Making of Cuthroat Island (1177691).

As London except: 1.10pm Film: Ernest Saves Christmas (60483393). 12.45am Film: The World is Full of Married Men (101252). 2.25am Carnal Knowledge (8232320). 3.25am Film: Eleni f509146). 5.25-5.55am Making of Cut-throat Island (1177691).

As London except: 1.10pm Film: Murder in Three Acts (60483393). 12.45am Film: The World is Full of Married Men (101252). 2.25am Carnal Knowledge (8232320). 3.25am Film: Eleni (609146). 5.25-5.55am Making of Cutthroat Island (1177691).

As C4 except: 6.05am Early Morning: All-Terrain Marathon Christmas Special (4715428). 7.00 The Magic School Bus (67799), 7.55 Hong Korg Phocey (4765848). 8.05 King Arthur and the Knights of Justice (7947206). 11.50 Home to Roost (8958409). 12.55pm Stot Mehtrin (9268003). 1.25 Happy Prince (2954436). 2.00 Faust (2741480). 5.20 Brookside (55470480). 7.00 News (980374). 7.15 Noson Lawen (3458799). 8.20 Gadael Garthewin (571225). 9.05 Lon Goed (279799). 9.35 Clint Night. The Greaters Clint Extended (964004). Night: The Greatest: Clint Eastwood (864041). 10.05 AFI Life Achievement Award (1027157). 11.25-1.30am Film: White Hunter, Black Heart (15950041).

Radio

Radio 1

197.6-99.8MHz PM 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 1.00 Jo Whiley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Danny Rampling: Lovegroove Dance Party 9.00 Radio I Rap Show 12.00 Reggae Dance-hall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix 4.00-7.00am Charlie Jordan

(88-90.2MHz FNO 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Sat-urday Show 1.00 Arthur Smith's Amusing Bits 1.30 Smith and Jones Sound Off 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 The Simon and Garfunkel Story 6.00 Mary Black in Concert 7.00 Bitter Sweet 10.00 The Arts Programme 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-6.00am

Radio 3

(90.2-92.4MHz Rd) 6.55am News Headlines; Weather.7.00 Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. Rodney Milnes compares available recordings of Humperdinck's opera Hansel and Gretel. 10.15 Record Release.

tens to the latest batch of reisnovelist, poet and libretost David Malouf talks to Michael Berkeley about his favourite musical mo ments, including a Chopin waitz, a Haydn string quartet, and a fugue by Bach played by pianist

1.00 News; Threads. An exploration of the material world pre-sented by Hannah Andrassy. (1/6). 1.20 Vintage Years: The Philhanno

nia. Humphrey Burton traces the history of the Philharmonia. (1/6).

3.20 The Finishing Touch, David Campbell is joined by pianist Roger Vignoles and five students to discuss the finer points of Mozart's Quintet for Plano and Wind, K542, (2/6).

4.05 Bach Harpischord Concertos Bach: Concertos in C minor for Two Harosichords, BWV1062; In C for Three Harpsichords, BWV1064; in A minor for Four Harpsichords, BWV1065. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Music Matters. Ivan Hewett chairs a public debate on or-chestras in the Uk. See Choice,

6.30 Live from the Met. Tosca.

7

Cumming finds that lottery money is building fantastic new theatres and galleries, but nobody can afford to put anything on in them; and a special edition of Music Matters (with guest panellist Richard Armstrong) (5.45pm R3) asks whether the orchestra has a future.

Puccini's brutal and enduringly popular opera of love, political alousy, murder and stricide set in Rome, where Tosca, an opera singer, helps hide her lover Cavaradossi, an escaped political prisoner.

9.45 Blue Skies. Geneticist Professor Steve Jones explores the art and science behind metamorphosis. 10.15 Impressions. Brian Morton and Alyn Shipton Introduce a

Rare Music Club concert given last November in the Amolfini, Bristol. Planist Andrew Ball plays compositions by Howard Skemp-ton, Tom Armstrong and Vasili Lobanov. 12.30 Misterioso. Ian Carr talks to

drammer Billy Higgins about the brief but interse period he spent working with Thelonious Monk in 1960. (8/8). 1.00 Through the Night. 6.00-7.00am Sequence.

Radio 4 (92.494 6Mb; FNL, 1984b; LVI) 6.00am News. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 7.00 Today. 9.00 News.

9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breslaway. Hotiday and travel news, presented by Anne Gregg.

10.00 Loose Ends. New year marth with Ned Sherin and guests.

11.00 Agenda. Laura Currming, Arts Editor of The New States-

Choice, above
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. The BBC's foreign correspondents present views of the countries they are based in. 12.00 Money Box. 12.25 Just a Minute. Nicholas ParChoice

in Agenda (11am R4), Laura

Peter Jones, 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions?

1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 Any Answers. 2.30 Saturday Playhouse: The Silent World of Nicholas Quinn. The instincts of inspector Morse are severely tested when he is called in to investigate the mur-der of a deaf examination

invigilator. 4.00 Making History. 4.30 Science Now. 5.00 Consequences, Denys Blake-way looks back at the 1963 proway nooks back at the 1963 pro-posals for streamlining the British railways put forward by Dr Richard Beeching, In which a third of the network was to be axed and more than 2,000 sta-tions closed. The plans sparked a national outcry, but did the end results prove beneficial? (1/4).

5.40 Footnotes. A profile of George F. Train, the American entrepre-neur who introduced trams to London in 1860. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather.

5.55 Weatner, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.25 Year Ending, 6.50 Cafe Days, Simon Parkes in-vestigates cafe culture in Zagrab, 7.20 Kalektoscope Feature, A profile of black entertainment troupe The Chocolate Kiddles whose tour of Europe during the 1920s had a far-reaching impact on the European music of the time. With contributions from jazz hisman, examines the impact of the National Lottery on the arts. See torian Alyn Shipton and musi-cians Garvin Bushell and Doc Cheatham.
7.50 On These Days. Events from

50 years ago this week, when an escalation of violence in estine led to fuel shorta: 8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Wild Hops. By Sally Wortboyes. An end-of-an-era drama set in 1959 which examines the social and sons hosts the improvisational panel game, with off-the-cuff wit from guests Paul Merton, Derek personal effects of changes in the hop growing industry. With Nimmo, Clement Freud and

George Innes. (1/4).

9.35 Classics with Kay, Brian Kay examines four different composers' views of Scotland.

9.50 Ten to Ten, BBC correspondent Martin Bell talks to Martin Wroe about matters of faith. 10.00 News. 10.15 With a Little Help from My

Friends. Frances McNeil's drama examines the turbulent relationship which existed between Brian Epstein, The Beatles and the other bands he managed. 11.15 The Blue Room, John Fordham examines some of the most popular music of the 20th

century.

11.45 Uncle Mort's Celtac Fringe.
By Peter Tinniswood. Carter
Brandon takes a holiday in
Wales with his Uncle Mort. With Vales with his Unice Mort. With Stephen Thome, Sam Ketty and Christian Rodska. (5/5). 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: New Year's Day. By Fay Weldon. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service.

Radio 5

633.90kh km 6.05am Dirty Tackle 6,30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weekend with Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 The Garne's Up 12.05 Baker and Kelly Upfront 1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 8.05 The Instruct 1.03 Sport on rive 0.00 Six-U-Six 8.05 The Treatment 9.05 Dallyn UK 10.05 Brief Lives 10.35 Word Up! 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Night Talk 2.00-6.00am Up All Night

Classic FM

Yirgin Radio

(100.0-101.94% FM)
6.00am Sarah Ward 9.00 Count-6.00am Sarah Ward 9.00 Count-down 12.00 Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Mann's Packed Lunch 4.00 Jane Markham 7.00 Russian Revelation 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Classic Guiz 12.00 An-dre Leon 4.00 The Travel Guide 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone.

6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Jererny Clark 2.00 Mark Forrest 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Richard Porter 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce **World Service**

(1215, 1197-1260kHz WW 105.8NHz FN)

Uson Newsdesk 1.30 Cuote... Unquote 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Peo-ple & Politics 3.00 News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Music Review 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Seeing Stars 4.45 On the Move 5.00 Newsday

4.00pm Gandhi (1982) (5883907). 8.00 Breakout (1975) (9/92520). 10.00 The Accused (1988) (396/278). 11.55 Michay Spillane's Millo Harmer Martin Talantia. 7.00am WKRP in Cincinnate (89907) 7.30 George (91742). 8.00 Young In-diana Jones Chronicles (45723). 9.00 olana Jones Chromoes (49723), 9,0 Star Trek: The Next Generation (37618), 10.00 Quantum Leap (97926), 11.00 Star Trek (77162), 12.00 WWF (43520), 1.00 WWF Mike Harrimer: Murder Takes All (1989) (4393452), 1.35 Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1931) (6691766), 3.15-5.25am Random Harvest (1942) (69568), 2.00 kung Fu: The Legend Continues (46758), 3.00 Star Trek (59411143). Deep Space Nine (69094). 4.00 Star SAY SPORTS 1 Trek: Voyager (51029), 5.00 The Hit Mix (7655), 6.00 Kung Fu: The Legend Continues (49704), 7.00 Hercules:

7.00am World Sport (27181), 7.30 American Cavalcade (73100), 8.30 Racing News (30181), 9.00 NHL: Power Week (43704), 10.00 Rugby Club (35100), 11.00 Hold the Back Page (22636), 12.00 Sports Saturday (34599), 2.00 Rughy Union – Live (2447704), 6.00 Football Special: FA Cup Third Round (68013), 7.30 Rugby: Ireland Vs Italy (9970-1), 9,00 NFL American Football - Live (144516-1), 12,30-3,00am Ice Hockey (548259),

SAT SPORTS 2

7.00am Socier AM (4255520). 11.00 Figure Stading (7006704). 1.00 World Sport (9296617). 1.30 Velo-Cycling Magazine (1620723). 2.00 Tennis (9860471). 5.00 Darts: WDC World Championship Semi-Finals - Live (9987471). 11.00 Cricket: Hall of Fame (6000907). 11.30-1.00am Foot-ball: World Cup Classics - West Ger-many Vs England 1990 (399.1278).

STAY SPORTS 3

12.00noon UK Skiff Sailing (93459907). 12.30 High 5 (67498568). 1.00 World Motor Sport (20357384). 5.00 UK Skiff Sailing (75803384). 5.30 High 5 (81587655). 6.00 Ice Hockey: Not-tingham Parities Vs Manchester Storm Lwe (15731278), 8.30 Golf: Andersen World Champlonship Semi-Finals –
 Live (81859365), 11.30-12.00midnight High 5 (56212433). LIVETY

6.00am Agony Experience 6.30 Fash-lon 7.00 Revelations 7.30 Fase and Fortune 8.00 Why Files 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Psychic Pets 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Agony 11.00 Parrish Refe 11 30 Fate and Fortune 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Agany 11.00 Psychic Pets 11.30 Fats and Fortune 12.00 Campus Capers 12.30 The Why Files 1.00 Nation Live 1.15 Looking for Love 1.30 Psychic Pets 2.00 Pashlon 2.30 Agony 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Pm Money 4.00 Sport Live 5.00 Agony Experience 5.30 Seventies Pop Show 6.00 Psychic Pets 8.30 Agony 9.03 Fashlon 9.30 Looking for Love 9.45 The Bottom Line 10.03 Sport Live 10.30 Stand-Lip Live 11.03 Fate and Fortune 11.30 The Sex Show 12.03 Revelsions 11,30 The Sex Show 12.03 Revela-tions 12.30 Kiss TV: Kiss Lriestyle 1.30-6.00am Night-Time Programmes

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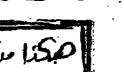
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1

Throne's throes

Today's royal crisis is not just about marital breakdown, infidelity and too much shopping

david aaronovitch

Cardiff on New Year's Eve when I realised that Britain was going to become a republic. We were not there to see Harold Pinter's latest play, nor some piece of left-wing misereria featuring a wrongly jailed Irish-man, a venal politician, a corrupt newspaper tycoon and anal sex. Nor was the audience composed of professional middle classes seeking to be seared by indictments.

Entitled Jack and the Beanstalk, the play had an anonymous author, and though the leading male role (Jack) was taken by Su Pollard, this did not seem to be in pursuit of any challenge to sexual or gender stereotypes. In the seats around me were the engineers of ticket for Manchester United. Penarth, the garage owners of the Vale and the stolid burghers but to shoot a stag! I'm not nectessarily against shooting stags of Roath. And they and their (has to be done, old boy), but children were all busy laughing at the Royal Family. At did you see when the blood Camilla, at Fergie, at Diana, at came spurting out of its head? Charles, at Andy, at the Queen Mum (crosses himself). Nor were these affectionate jokes, throne is off in Klosters with as told about erring friends or Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, fampopular celebrities. They were ous trust-fund babe. I have contemptuous - cruel, even. nothing against her - somebody These were jokes that were has to model for Cartier and I

sustain monarchy. have survived a mauling. Just look at the cartoons of Gillray, cratic history. Since universal William's view of the world. suffrage, there has not been such a crisis of confidence in will be a two-hour programme

simple product of infidelities, will be invited to ring one of marital breakdown and a bit too two 0891 numbers and cast much shopping. It is, rather, the exposure of the immense gulf in continuation of royal rule. This social attitudes and experience time, the royalists will win. between the subject on the one But not, I suspect, for much hand, and the family from longer. Twenty years from now, which the monarch has to be when asked "where is the chosen, plus the gang of ridicu- monarchy?" the answer will lous aristos and celebrities with which that family chooses to "It's behind us!"

was sitting in row Q of the surround itself, on the other. stalls in the New Theatre in My own moment of truth My own moment of truth came with Prince Philip's views on gun control. It wasn't that I disagreed (though I did), but that his arguments had managed to be so utterly uninformed by the debate raging around him. In the circles in which the man moves, he simply hadn't heard the case being made for banning handguns. How could this happen?

If, like I was, you are tempted to write this off as a generational problem, consider how our future king is being brought up. He attends Eton College, where he mixes almost entirely with the nobs and the extremely wealthy. His idea of early adolescent joy is not to meet Alan Shearer or be given a season where's the fun in it? ("Daddy, Wasn't it ace?") And now the heir to the

understood and responded to suppose that it's never going to by the very people who might be me. But this is a woman once have been expected to whose magic moments come at events such as Countess Debbie So what? Previous monarchs von Bismarck's housewarming party in a converted police station in Chelsea, or when wearfeaturing farting Georges and ing turquoise python knee-fornicating Williams! But these boots. She is of the other-life, are examples from pre-demo- and yet she is important to

On ITV this week, there the monarchy - even at the on the future of the monarchy, time of the Abdication. on the future of the monarchy, chaired (robustly, I hope) by me of the Abdication. chaired (robustly, I hope) by And today's crisis is not a Trevor Macdonald. Viewers resound around the islands:

Tribes who won't see the forest for the sleaze

by Jamie Drummond

razil's Amazon rainforest could be likened to America's Wild West of old, where he who had the biggest gun or fattest wallet wrote the rules. I travelled to the Amazon for Christian Aid in September to see whether measures agreed at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to protect the forests and its people from illegal loggers, goldminers and

settlers are working. Chief Tamakurale of the Parakana Indians, a tribe that lives beside a tributary of the Amazon in Para state, told me a typical tale: "We do not want the loggers on our lands. They give us diseases, they kill the forest animals and take turtles from the river so we have nothing to eat. They cut down the trees. If the trees go, some of our children may survive, but they will not be Parakana."

This may sound familiar. The Rio Summit, which was attended by most world leaders, was supposed to signal a new willingness to take the environment and indigenous rights seriously. Though important conclusions were reached in Rio, much of the aid promised by developed countries at the summit to help developing countries preserve and sustainably use their natural resources has not been forthcoming. And it is ironic that in the rainforests of the host nation, Brazil, deforestation rates have increased from 11,130 square kilometres a year in 1991 just before the conference to 14,896 square kilometres a year in 1994.

In response to this alarming trend in deforestation, the Brazilian government itself launched new measures in the summer of 1996 intended to halt or slow this destruction. The government recognised that much of the problem is caused by mahogany logging in reserves like that of the Parakana, which are legally set aside for indigenous people. The mahogany loggers not only cause damage themselves but also open the routes by which other settlers follow, adding to the destruction. Logging in indigenous areas

is illegal but hard to trace because of the vast size of the Amazon, so Brazil set out its new measures in July to halt the illegal logging - a ban on new mahogany-felling licences and a re-evaluation of all exist-ing licensees. Furthermore, the area within any logging con-cession that can be felled has been reduced from 50 per cent to 20 per cent.



Logging means the future paints a grim picture for Amazonian Indians.

Photograph: Christian Aid/Jamie Drummond

Given the large amounts of money to be made, corruption among the Brazilian environment police is rife

Can these new steps have any impact? One of the biggest concerns is the Ibama (the Brazilian environment police). The Ibama is grossly underfunded: its budget was cut by 40 per cent in 1995 and now it has only 650 agents, 120 land vehicles and 30 boats to patrol an area the size of Western

State for the Environment, summed it up when he said that Ibama outstations were "100 per cent branch offices of the logging companies". Given the large amounts of money to

be made, corruption is rife. We arrived in Par State during the burning season, one of

Jose Lutzenberger, the for- the dry periods when huge mer Brazilian Secretary of areas of rainforest are burned and cleared for cattle ranching and farming. From our small propeller plane, the forest at first appeared like a green ocean, but soon smoke from forest fires enveloped the view in a grey-green haze.

We travelled to the reserve of the Kayapo Indians to locate open - the loggers had seen us Christian Aid

trucks carrying illegal mahogany. To reach the reserve, we drove for two hours through the smouldering remains of what just days before had been pristine rainforest. Within min-utes, we found a truck carrying about £30,000 of illegal mahogany. The engine was still

coming and were probably watching from the under-

Instead of confiscating the vehicle and stolen wood as they are empowered to do. the men from Ibama punctured the tyres and took some photographs. They feared that guns were trained on us from the bushes. One officer muttered bitterly that to do their ob properly, Ibama needed the resources to make more journeys like this, and more military back-up, so they would have less to lear from retal-

The Parakana know their land has been deforested illegally. We flew over a large deforested area that our GPS (global positioning service) proved was within the reserve.

A timber company called Perrachi was fined for illegally logging the area in 1993. Perrachi is one of the main suppliers of Brazilian mahogany to the UK market. While the UK's Timber Trade Federation claims that all Brazilian mahogany in the UK is now legally sourced, the Parakana claim that Perrachi is still handling timber from illegal logging within their reserve.

"The problem is that, to get around the law, timber companies work increasingly through sub-contractors. It is therefore hard to prove whether companies like Perrachí are involved," explains Tarcisio Feitosa of Cimi, an organisation supported by Christian Aid to work with Amerindian tribes.

The government's new legislation, though a step in the right direction, cannot guarantee that mahogany on the market is legally and sustainably sourced. I would ask consumers in the UK to think twice before buying it," he said.

From the evidence I saw, the Brazilian government needs to do more. First, it must put more resources into ensuring that indigenous land rights are be better managed and

Sarah Tyack of Friends of the Earth has a further request: "If the Brazilian government wants to prove its credibility on the environment, it should surport a ban on the mahogany trade under Appendix 11 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, early in 1997." would be a meaningful New Year's resolution.

warm and a cabin door was The writer is a researcher for

Hunting the truth

n Islington-born vege-A tarian who switches off nature programmes if animals start eating each other is an unlikely candidate to defend fox-hunting. But unlike the vast majority of people who pass judgement, I have one outstanding credential: I have actually done it. And as the anti-hunting lobby again scents victory with the prospect of a Labour government, and existing hunts dwindle through political correctness and fear of saboteurs, I suggest the lobby is

misguided It is easy to attack hunting: it makes explicit many of the things we prefer to protect our-selves from - the killing of animals, brutality and blood - all in the name of sport. It is even easier to attack the hunting fraternity; images of posh, pink-coated Sir Bufton-Tufton types swigging from stirrup cups and foaming at the mouth fuel the impression of an unspeakable upper class in pursuit of the uneatable.

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Hunting is complex and fiercely emotive - and is most attacked by those least likely to

be affected by it.

For years, I was shipped out
of North London and off to
the Southern Irish Wexford Hounds, of which my step-grandfather was once Master. The whole community, from fat formers to scruffy children on Shetland ponies, united to indulge in the closest thing L as a townie, have ever seen to

community spirit. As a rather timid urban child, I found hunting gave me bravery: in the adrenalin rush of a moving field, children achieve feats that surprise themselves. as well as countesy (numring cur-quette is the most stringent of any sport) and a love of the any sport) and a love of the

Townies who would end fox-hunting need to examine their motives, suggests Jojo Moyes. Would the fox really benefit if this traditional country sport were illegal?

outdoors. People who go hunt-ing have a healthier respect for animals than most of my urban neighbours. In our house, you got no supper until your horse was put to bed. Hurting a hound, even accidentally, was

the greatest of sins.

The argument that foxes need culling is too well known for me to repeat. But in most hunts you don't even see one. Hunting is a means in itself as well as the means to a end. Dare I say it, hunting is fun.

And this is what animates the anti-hunting lobby most - that people who hunt are honest about the fact that they enjoy it. Plus, as small groups of people who congregate pub-licly, they are easy targets for

is the more widespread way in which we abuse animals bred for killing. Dead foxes look unpleasant? So do slaughterhouses, and so we choose to look the other way. Our meat products are carefully con-structed so as to give no hint that they were once parts of living, breathing animals. The only difference is that they are bred for slaughter - and that apparently makes it OK. After the BSE crisis some

farmers admitted that they couldn't afford to feed their affected cattle, and that many were bellowing with hunger Yet do you see organised protests in support of starving cattle? No, people sit at home eating hamburgers and, when pictures of huntsmen appear on television, condemn them roundly through mouthfuls of

Personally, I would rather take my chances as a fox than be a battery chicken, dosed up with antibiotics in a wire cage too small for me to turn round in. Simply banning fox-hunting for its cruelty is hypocritical and

And after hunting is banned, and the last hounds and hunters destroyed, what should we consider next? A hunting ban would not lead to foxes being reprieved; farmers would simply resort to crueller, legal methods of killing, such as happens in other parts of Europe, where they have been shot and snared almost to extinction.

As a town dweller, I see how easy it is for us to be judgemental about country folk. We keep our dogs in tiny flats, feel guilty when our children forget to feed unwanted hamsters, and then sign annual cheques for membership of the RSPCA.

Let's end the shouting and start the debate

1997 is the year for the Liberal Democrats to seize the initiative, argues Alan Beith

iberal Democrats in Parliament have been looking forward to the period after the general election, when we expect to have even more MPs than our present post-war record of 26. But we now have an opportunity to exercise influence and really make the difference, before the election. The fact that the Government has lost its majority, and the collapse of the pairing system, have given us a powerful opportunity. I intend that we should

The public is sick of the shouting match that passes for Parliament on TV. They are sick of the sleaze and the arrogance which they see in current politics. Although they want change, they are not impressed by Labour politicians pretending that they can transform the country without spending any money. They want to know what parties stand for.

So, we must use the remaining months of this dying parliament to get our views across. First, we will use the debates and votes on the Finance Bill to set our priority for investment in education, and we will call on other politicians to stand up and be counted. If they say they back education, then they must vote for the resources

Secondly, we will use our votes to stop the Government from pushing through illiberal measures which Labour, in its desperation not to lose again, will not dare to oppose. We will continue to insist on parliamentary debate on civil liberty issues over which Labour are too ready to let the Government have an easy ride. We will oppose government plans which could require every working citizen to produce a certificate showing whether they have ever had a criminal conviction. We will oppose the ludicrously expensive plan to divert billions of pounds into prison buildings, when the money is needed to prevent crimes from being carried out in the first place. We will not be satisfied with leaving chief constables to authorise bug-ging activity by members of their own police forces. The Liberal Democrats in the House of

Thirdly, we will stand, virtually alone, for a

national and progressive approach to Britain's role in Europe. We have already got a Liberal Democrat resolution passed by the House of Commons demanding a referendum on constitutional change in Europe: we will press that demand, and we will put the neglected case for stronger British participation in a more demo-

Above all, we will fight to protect the demo-cratic process itself. Increasingly it is left to Liberal Democrats to block this government's attempts to push laws through Parliament without proper scrutiny, just as it is Liberal Democrats who challenge Labour's abuse of power on many of the local councils they control We shall be asking a lot from our MPs and

candidates in the coming weeks. MPs in particular will need to combine campaigning in the constituencies with intense activity in Parliament. There will be some fierce debate - we are not prepared to play a game of insults, but we will stand our ground on issues which we believe matter to the people of this country. The other parties try to exclude us from debate. Our leader is allowed only one question a week to the Prime Minister, compared to Tony Blair's six, so we need to use other Parliamentary procedures to make our case known: parliamentary guerrilla tactics may be needed. If the Government tries to win votes by trickery, it must expect a reaction from a party which cares about Parliament.

In the coming weeks, the Conservatives and Labour parties will insult each other endlessly, but will get closer and closer together on policy issues. Indeed, Labour's political stance is

rgely decided by what the Conservatives do. Liberal Democrats are different. We have consistent policies on education, taxation, the economy, Europe, crime, electoral reform and civil liberty. In the dying days of this parliament, we must make that distinctive position clearly known. 1997 is our year of opportunity.

Lords have already demonstrated that we are an effective opposition on many such issues.

The writer is MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed and Deputy Leader and Chairman of the Liberal

LIFE'S A LOTTERY

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When you buy a lottery ticket, you've a one in 14 million chance of winning the jackpot. The chances that you may experience some form of rheumatic disease are rather greater.

As many people in Britain today know, arthritis can cause evere crippling joint damage to hands and wrists. Feet, knees, hips, shoulders, elhows, jaw and neck can also be affected causing unrelenting pain and disability.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council is the only major UK charity financing medical research into osteoarthritis and rheumatic diseases at most university hospitals and medical schools in the UK.

Unlike the lottery, successful research programmes aren't dependent on chance. We need your help to increase our odds of finding a cure for these destructive diseases.

Phase send me: Your FREE Information Pack Your FREE Legacy-How to Make a Will Pack 🔛

Lenckee Lill L47 C10 my eff of £

To: The Arthritis & Rheomatism Council, FREEPOST, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7BR.





Lord Harvington

peccable Tory background, had impeccable Tory interests golf, hunting, yachting and farming among them - and was a distinguished wartime fighter pilot, Robert Grant-Ferris was, above all other things, a great House of Commons man, with a solid background in local

In 1933 he was elected as a local councillor in Birmingham. In 1935 he entered Parliament as member for St Pancras North. He lost that seat (not least because he had been unable to devote sufficient attention to it during his time in the RAF) in 1945.

He then contested Wandsworth twice, unsuccessfully, before winning Nantwich in 1955: that seat he held until his retirement in 1974. He was Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee during the years of Edward Heath's government, having never before held any office but that of a Parliamentary Private Secretary in wartime.

Although he was staunchly right-wing in most of his opin-

during the Spanish Civil War) he won, over the years, the stout regard of the Labour Party. It was a Labour government that honoured him, first with a knighthood in 1969. and then, in 1974, with a peerage; he took the title Baron

He was born Robert Grant Ferris in 1907, and went to Douai School in Berkshire. He worked briefly as an estate agent before entering Parliament: he always said that this experience stood him in good stead when be became a farmer. Then, in defiance of family tradition, he joined the

He served in most of the mafor theatres of war, including France, Egypt, India and Mal-ta. Of his Maltese service he had particularly fond memories, and he was above all proud when - amid a string of foreign decorations - he was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Sovereign and Military Order of Malta in 1949.

As belitted his background in local government, Grant-Ferris was deeply involved in hospital ions (for example, supporting work, showing none of the hos-

tility evinced by many Conservatives to the post-war creation of the National Health Service. But it was as a breeder of sheep that he really made his extraparliamentary reputation. He was no mere jobbing farmer. he gave assiduous attention to the selective breeding of sheep, and his eminence in this field was recognised by his election as president of the National Sheepbreeders' Association in 1956; he also served no less than three terms as pres-

ident of the Southdown Sheep

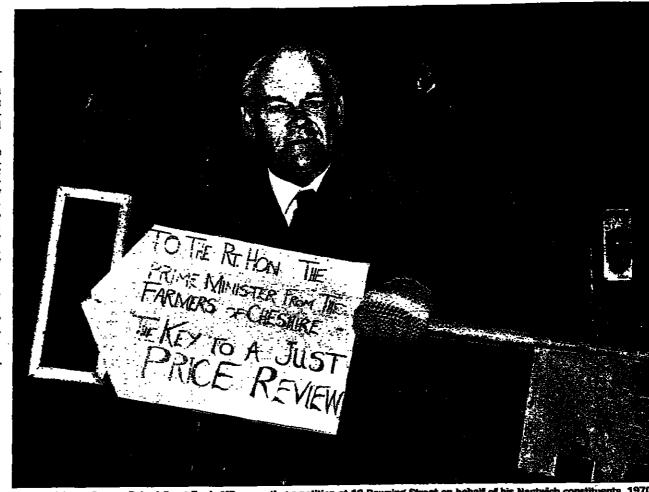
Grant-Ferris's support of Franco was, in all probability, a reflection of his devout Roman Catholicism. Though never a religious prig, he carried the belief in honour and uprightness inculcated by his faith into his House of Commons career. If ever - so parliamentary tradition has it - a man's word was his bond, it was the word of Robert Grant-Ferris. It was his unwavering high reputation for straight dealing and unrivalled knowledge of parliamentary procedure which won him such a high reputation on all sides of

He was not, however, a very

1974, to Jersey, to be with his daughter. But he left be-hind kind and grateful memories.

Patrick Cosgrave

Robert Grant Ferris (Robert Grant Grant-Ferris), politician: born 30 December 1907; called to the Bar, Inner Temple 1937; MP (Conservative) for North St Pancras 1937-45, for Nantwich 1955-74; Air Efficiency Award 1942; Parliamentary Private Sec-retary to the Minister of Town and Country Planning (W.S. Morri-son) 1944-45; President, South-down Sheep Society of England 1950-52, 1959-60, 1973; President, National Sheep Breeders' Association 1956-58; a Member of the Speaker's Panel of Chairmen, House of Commons 1962men, House of Commons 1902-70; chairman, Board of Management, Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth 1963-70; Kt 1969; President, Smithfield Club 1970; Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speak-er, House of Commons 1970-74; PC 1971; created 1974 Baron Hamington: regarded 1030 Flor Harvington; married 1930 Florence Brennan de Vine (deceased: one son, one daughter); died Jersey 30 December 1996.



No mere jobbing farmer: Robert Grant-Ferris MP presenting a petition at 10 Downing Street on behalf of his Nantwich of

Although his sporting life was dedicated to Rugby Union, first as a player and later as England coach and RFU president, one of the defining moments which shaped the philosophy of John Burgess came during a pre-war visit as a youngster to the Man-chester United football ground at Old Trafford.

"I can still recall quite vividly a United reserve, a 20-yearold called Johnny Carey, dealing with a high ball in a tight corner," he recalled, half a cen-tury later. "The incident was only a few feet away from me and I can remember now, as if it were yesterday, how he took the ball on his instep and brought it under control in an

"I could not believe that a man could do what he did. I was mesmerised by a moment of pure skill and that image has always stayed with me. One flash like that can make the most depressing game worthwhile

Although he played one matches under his guidance, ment, Burgess's work was clear-

game with Blackburn Rovers during a year of association football for the club after he left school, he quickly decided that he did not share Carey's talent. After service with the Fleet Air Arm in the Second World War, he turned to Rugby Union with Old Salfordians and later joined Broughton Park. From that point, Rugby Union became his consuming

His playing days reached a pinnacle in the twilight of his career when, at 38, he was chosen to play for the North West Counties against the All Blacks at White City in 1964, but it was as a coach that he first came to prominence in his native The transition from playing

to coaching started at Broughton Park, but took a major step forward when Lancashire invited him to take charge of their side in 1968. His impact was enormous, not only on the side, which lost only three years his own fashion state-

but upon the individual players ly influential in bringing the viinvolved.

John Burgess

When he took over, Lancashire had only one international, the flanker Dick Greenwood. By the time Burgess handed over the reins in 1973, to concentrate on his duties as a Lancashire repre-sentative on the RFU Com-mittee, the Red Rose county had provided over 20 internationals, four England captains and a British Lions captain for good measure.

In business life, Burgess was an electrical engineer by training, having studied at Salford Technical College, and he worked extensively in the Soviet Union and world-wide as managing director of the Stockport company Simon Handling, as a result of which he was appointed CBE in 1978 for his services to world exports. In addition to a great affection for the classic Russian fur hat, which was for many

tal ingredients of precision, planning and attention to detail to his rugby. He was also a man who constantly demanded mental agility from his team, cries of "Thinking, Language" thinking the control of cashire, thinking!" providing the backdrop to many of their triumphs.

For some, he was ahead of his time in terms of thinking and planning. For others, notably during his time as England coach during tours to Japan and Anstralia in 1971 and 1975 and during the 1974-75 domestic season, he was too direct. This was a man with enormous passion for life, who delivered his views straight from the shoulder. Not everyone could handle his style.

His successes in the North, most notably in directing the North West Counties to the first defeat of the New Zealand All Blacks by any regional side, at Workington in 1972, had turned as much on his motivational skills as his strategic planning. a Lancashire representative in field, Cheshire 1 January 1997.

His team talks have passed into the folklore of Lancashire and Northern Rugby and the image of him stripped to his string vest, pounding out his oration with huge animation, and ultimately destoying the dressing-room table, will live long in the hearts of those who shared that momentous Workington

Yet, behind his verbal pyrotechnics, there was also a man of compassion and thoughtfulness who was proper, respectful, well-mannered. He cared deeply for his players, scolding when the need arose, but always quick with a personal welcome to a new face and an individual word of encourage ment or praise, a pat on the back or a hug which said "Well done" on the good days or "Hard lines" when things hadn't

experience.

worked out. As an administrator, Burgess held the office of RFU President in the 1987-88 season, having joined the Committee as 1967. He led the Burgess Commission in 1981 which sought to identify the best way forward for the game at that time - a mission he was still deeply committed to and actively involved in at the time of his death.

But while his work for the game at international level brought him an enormous collection of friendships, his greatest joy was to be working for Lancashire and the North, searching for excellence and constantly hoping to recapture the days when Cotton, Beaumont, Neary, Slemen, Carleton, Smith et al wore the England jersey with pride and distinction.

Tony Simpson

John Burgess, rugby player, coach and administrator: born Salford 8 November 1924; England Rugby Union coach, Japan tour 1971, Australia tour 1975, England 1974-75; CBE 1978; President, Rugby Football Union 1987-88; twice married (one son, one daughter); died Maccles-

A. H. Chaplin

mate Principal Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum, before the library departments of the museum were absorbed into the British Library in 1973.

Burgess training at Broughton Park, 1971

Arthur Hugh Chaplin was the elder son of the Rev Herbert Chaplin. As a nonconformist minister his father moved frequently and Hugh was educated at a number of different schools including King's Lynn Grammar School and Bedford Modern School before taking his degree at University College London. After brief periods as an assistant librarian at Reading University and Queen's University, Belfast, he entered the British Museum as an Assistant Keeper in the Department of Printed Books in 1930.

department were trained in cataloguing as a basic skill, and Chaplin devoted much of his career to various aspects of this work, becoming an acknowledged expert in the field. He also shared the other tasks of the library, including deputising for the Superintendent of the Reading Room and selecting books and periodicals to be acquired - he dealt with Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American

Many of his colleagues left the museum during the Second World War to serve in the Armed Forces or in government departments, but Chaplin was one of those who remained in order to keep the library service in operation, largely for the ben-

one of the bookstacks was destroyed with the loss of some 250,000 volumes on the night of 10/11 May 1941 (a night when several of the upper-floor galleries of the museum were also burnt out), he helped with the salvage work, which went on for many months.

When the war ended and the recruitment of new staff began Chaplin was engaged in training the new entrants in cataloguing. He also became a Labour member of Holborn Council, and devoted much of his soare time to improving the library service of the borough.

In the late 1940s he was put in charge of current cataloguing, and in 1952 he was also givefit of persons engaged in work en the responsibility for editing

eral catalogue, the publication of which had begun in 1931. In recognition of the fact that he was in charge of all aspects of cataloguing he was in 1953 promoted to be a Deputy Keeper.

The slow progress of the revised edition of the catalogue was causing concern and Chaplin now helped F.C. Francis, one of the Keepers of the department, to plan an unrevised photolithographic reprint as a substitute. By the time the first volume of this appeared in 1960. Chaplin had been transferred to other duties.

After a brief period as Superintendent of the Reading Room in 1959 he was promoted Keeper in the same year and put in charge of reader and information services. His cataput to good use in 1961 when he organised an International Conference on Cataloguing in Paris. His work in this connection was described as brilliant.

In 1966 he was promoted Principal Keeper of Printed Books. A year later the library was thrown into turmoil when Harold Wilson's government suddenly, and without any consultation with the trustees of the museum, announced that the long-planned building for the expansion of the library would not be built on the designated site to the south of Great Russell Street. A committee was set up under the chairmanship of Fred (later Lord) Dainton to examine the whole future of the national libraries system, and

With the Prince's latest decision to become

a born-again Anglican, reported in last

Saturday's Daily Telegraph and expressed

in language shared by that newspaper's

more extreme contributors, I wonder if

a more appropriate title might not be "Pontifex Maximus"?

public figures elected to preside over the

state religion, the pontifex maximus being

the chief of these. It was a political ap-

pointment, the holder being, as the title

suggests, a bridge-builder between the

secular and sacred aspects of public life.

The idea might appeal to the Prince.

whose chief religious concern, as far as we

can make it out, is closing the gap between

scientific materialism and the spiritual

the huge number of Roman gods, many

of whom were easily offended and could

take their revenge by sabotaging public en-terprises. In a modern parallel, for "gods" read "the natural world", which, in the

Prince's mind, is linked with the spiritu-

al rather than the material world. Ac-

cording to the Prince, nobody is pointing

out the constant damage being done to the

natural world as a result of short-sighted

If this is indeed the top item on the

Prince's agenda, it is small wonder that he

has looked for support beyond the Church

of England. Christian religious texts are

overwhelmingly concerned with human-

ity, and in the West, where the natural

world is generally predictable (despite the

current surprise that snow can possibly fall

public policy and corporate greed.

The pontifices were kept in business by

In ancient Rome, the pontifices were

All Assistant Keepers in the of national importance. After the revised edition of the gen-loguing expertise was however 1969 the Department of Edu-came a Fellow of University his 90th birthday, Chaplin was cation and Science blocked all developments in Chaplin's department. He had put forward plans for considerable changes soon after he became Principal Keeper and, in his final report before he retired in the summer of 1970, he commented ruefully on how few of them had come

> to fruition. He was put under enormous pressure to compile evidence to be presented to the Dainton Committee, and the calm way in which he coped with this was much admired.

In his retirement he and his wife. Irene Marcousé, remained active in Labour politics, and he kent up his links with the Library Association, of which he had been a member of Coununtil this reported in March cil from 1964 to 1970. He be-

served as a member of the Senate of London University from 1973 to 1979. For 10 years he worked on a history of cataloguing in the Department of Printed Books from the 1830s. This was published in 1987 under the title GK: 150 Years of the General Catalogue of Printed Books in the British Museum, and is a concise and clear account of a very complicated subject.

College London in 1969, and

His wife was incapacitated by a stroke for several years before her death in 1990, and during this trying time he cared for her devotedly. In 1995, when a lunch in his honour was given by Michael Smethurst, one of the Directors General of the British Library, to celebrate still as lucid and fluent as ever. Difficulty with walking obliged him to give up his second-floor flat at 44 Russell Square which he had occupied for over 50 years, and move to groundfloor accommodation nearby. His final illness was mercifully

Philip Harris

Arthur Hugh Chaplin, librarian: born 17 April 1905; Assistant Librarian, Reading University 1927-28; Assistant Librarian, Queen's University, Belfast 1928-29; Assistant Keeper, Department of Printed Books, British Museum 1930-53, Deputy Keeper 1953-59, Keeper 1959-66, Principal Keeper 1966-70; CB 1970; married 1937 Irene Marcousé (died 1990): died London 24 December 1996.

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

POTTER: On 20 December, in Eglwys-lach, to Ruth and Philip, the gift of a daughter, Bridget Cartlin. WILLIAMS / THOMAS: On 29 December 1996, to Sally and Henry, a daughter, Clementine Violet Zoe, a sister for Lily and Fergus. DEATHS

JENKIN: Michael Glanville, 27 December 1996, management consultant, formerly Marketing and Sales Director of Unigate pk, died suddenly at home in Hereford. Cherished lover and soulmate of Judith, his wife.
Belowed father and stepfather of Judith (Consultant Consultant Consu lia, Georgina, Richard, Carolina na. Georgina, Richard, Carolina, David, Simon, Cutherine and Emma. Memorial Service at Little Birch Parish Church, Hereford, Tuesday 7 January at 11.15am. All enquiries to the family: 01432 272649. No flowers please; donations to the RNIB.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

SPROXTON: C. Vernon. A memorial service will be held at 2pm, Saturday 8 February 1997, at the United Re-formed Church, Regent Square, Lon-don WC1. All welcome.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour swering machine 0171-293 2012) or red to 0171-293 2010, and are charged

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS Prince Edward, Patron, tomorrow attends out green by the National Youth Orchestra land, at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Changing of the Guard FORAY The Household Cavalry mounts Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham: he Oueen's Guard, at Buckingham Pal

T.J.

Birthdays

TODAY: Miss Grace Bumbry, opera singer, 60; Miss Dyan Cannon, actress, 58; Mr Alexander Chancellor, journalist, 57; Capt Sir Ivar Colquhoun of Luss Bt, Chief of the Clan, 81; Miss Rosalie Crutchley, actress, 75; Mr Iain Cuthbertson, ac tor, 67; Mr Alan Dyer, chief constable, Bedfordshire, 63; Professor Keith Hancock, economist, 62; Lt-Cdr Sir Ian Clark Hutchison, a member of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, 94; Professor Brian Josephson, physicist, 57; Air Vice-Marshal Richard Kyle, 54; Professor Lance Lanyon, Principal, Royal Veterinary College, 53; Mr John McLaughlin, blues and jazz guitarist, 54; Miss Margaret Marshall, opera singer, 48; Mr Mick Mills, foot-baller, 48; Mr Floyd Patterson, boxer, 62; Mr Nicholas Payne, Director, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, 52; Mr Timothy Roc, publisher, 63; Miss Barbara Rush, actress, 67; Sir Alan Thomas, chairman, G.M.Firth (Holdings) plc, 54; Mrs Audrey Wise MP, 62; Miss Jane Wyman,

actress, 83. TOMORROW: King Juan Carlos of Spain, 59; Jean, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, 76; Mr Mansur Ali Khan, Nawab of Pataudi, former Indian cricketer, 56; M Jean-Pierre Aumont, actor, 86; Mr Alfred Brendel, concert pianist, 66: Mrs Jean Clark. President, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 62; Mr John Darby, former chairman, Ultramar, 67; Mr Terry Davis MP, 59; Mr Hartley, former Vice-Chancellor, London University, 86; Sir Alan Hume, former chairman, Ancient Monuments Board, Scotland, 84; Miss Diane Keaton, actress, 51; Lord Kingsdown, Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, 70: Miss Jan Leeming, broadcaster. 55; Miss Sarah Lucas, radio presenter, 46; Mr Maurizio Pollini, pianist, 55; Maj-Gen Henry Quinlan, former Director of the Army Dental Service, 91: Lt-Gen Sir Michael Rose, UN commander in Bosnia, 57;

General Sir John Stibbon, Chief

TODAY: Births: James Ussher, Arch-

Anniversaries

bishop of Armagh and chronologist, 1581; Sir William Hillary, founder of the Royal National Lifeboat Insti-tution, 1771; Jakob Ludwig Karl Grimm, philologist and folklorist, 1785; Louis Braille, deviser of a blind alphabet, 1809; Sir Isaac Pit-man, publisher and inventor of Pitman's shorthand, 1813; General Tom Thumb (Charles Sherwood Stratton), dwarf, 1838; Augustus Edwin John, painter, 1878; Sterling Holloway, actor and comedian, 1905. Deaths: Maréchal François-Henri de Montmorency-Bouteville, Duc de Lun-embourg, soldier, 1695; Charles Samuel Keene, artist and illustrator, 1891; Clarence Edward Dutton, geologist, 1912; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, 1958; Albert Cawinams, composer, 1995; Aircert Ca-mus, novelist and playwright, killed 1960; Erwin Schrödinger, physicist, 1961; Thomas Steams Eliot, poet and critic, 1965; Donald Malcolm Camp-bell, land and water speedster, killed 1967; Joy-Friederike Victoria Adamson, naturalist and writer, 1980; Christopher William Bradshaw Isherwood, novelist and playwright, 1986. On this day: Columbus sailed from America back to Spain in the Nina, 1493; the Fabian Society was ounded, 1884; the first appendicitis operation was performed, 1885; in India, the National Congress was de-clared illegal, and Mahatma Gandhi was arrested, 1932; the first pop

music chart was published in the United States by the Billboard magazine, 1936; a strike of barbers' assistants in Copenhagen ended after 33 years, 1961. Today is the Feast Day of St Elizabeth Bayley Seton, St Gre-gory of Langres, St Pharalldis, St Rigobert of Rheims and St Roger of TOMORROW: Births: John Burke,

genealogist, 1787; King Camp Gillette, inventor of the safety-razor,

1855; Stella Dorothea Gibbons, poet

and novelist, 1902. Deaths: St Edward the Confessor, 1066; Catherine de Medici, Queen of France, 1589; Joseph Gillott, steel pen manufac turer, 1873; Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton, explorer, 1922; John Calvin Coolidge, 30th US President, 1933: Amy Johnson (Mollison), aviator, 1941; Brian Alexander Johnston broadcaster and cricket commentator, 1994. On this day: Charles the Bold of France was killed by the Swiss at the Battle of Nancy, 1477; Britain and Turkey concluded the Treaty of the Dardanelles, 1809; the first demonstration of X-rays was given by Wilhelm von Röntgen, 1896; the Kingdom of Serbs, Crosts and Slovenes (Yugoslavia) was estab-lished, 1919; FM radio was first demonstrated in the United States by Major Edwin H. Armstrong, 1940; President Giscard d'Estaing promulgated a law making the use of French compulsory in advertising, instructions on consumer goods, etc., 1976. Today is Wassail Eve (tonight is Twelfth Night) and the Feast Day of St Apollinaris, St Convoyon, St Dorotheus the Younger, St Gerlac, St John Nepomucene Neumann, St Simeon Stylites and St Syncietica.

TODAY National Gallery: Rachel Barnes, and his Followers into Stone", 12pm Tolstoy's Ideal Artist", Ipm. "Michelangelo's Cartoon Epifania",

1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Andrew Robinson, "General Officers of TOMORROW

Lectures

"Crimes and Misdemeanours (i): Giordano, Perseus Turning Phineas Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, British Museum: Hilary Williams

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "20th-century Artistic Ideals", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Simone

Mathews, "Portraits by John Singer

Sargent", 3pm.

The Prince of Wales and the cosmos The Prince of Wales is known to be unfaith o reason happy with one of the titles he will inherit with the crown. He told Jonathan Dimbleby in 1993 or 1994 that he would prefer to ditch the title "Defender of the Faith", in favour of "Defender of Faith".

What does the would-be 'Defender of Faith' intend for

the Church of England? He should concentrate on bridgebuilding, says Paul Handley, Editor of the Church Times. in January), human behaviour has re-

mained the chief matter of the religious. "I am one of those people who searches," the Prince told Dimbleby, and, with Laurens van der Post as his guide, he has spent much of his adult life searching overseas. The prophet's own country was without honour. The Prince's public life was heavily structured; having a structured religious life as well did nothing for him. Reacting against the formal, he sought the formless.

But having taken things apart, and hav-ing watched his private life fall apart at the same time, there is some evidence that the Prince is looking for a way to put things back together again. An important piece of evidence is the speech he gave to a meeting of religious and business leaders just before Christmas:

I have always felt that tradition is not a man-made element in our lives, but a God-given intuition of natural rhythms, of the fundamental harmomy that emerges from the union of the paradoxical opposites that exist in every aspect of nature. Tradition reflects the timeless order of the cosmos, and anchors us into an awareness of the great mysteries of the universe.

Much of this is complete gibberish; mystical language usually is. But the attempt

to wed the cosmological stuff with traditional religious expression might, even-tually, get the Prince a more sympathetic hearing that he has received hitherto. Certainly it might help him recruit a few more

people who share his vision.

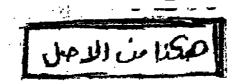
But not if he carries on being so rude. He was reported last weekend as saying that the Church he loved had been "swept away by pathetic, politically correct progressives". He has clearly spent a term at the Prince Philip school of charm, pushed into enrolling, perhaps, by Lord Runcie's recent suggestion that he should "love the Church of England a bit more". Few in the Church would use the word "progressive" to describe the current leadership - unless one were referring to a liberalising tendency towards divorce and

remarriage, with which the Prince might be thought to agree. The phrase only makes sense if it is applied to the modern liturgy, in the process of being revised yet again. If, before this latest resolve, the Prince was looking to the C of E just as a receptacle for the beauty of ancient liturgy, his exasperation can be understood. But, outside the Prayer Book services at Windsor and Sandringham, the Church has been changing. Many modern liturgies are attempting exactly the kind of thing the Prince wants: combining traditional elements with what is, at best, a worshipful appreciation of God's creation. The Gordonstoun schoolboy might not enjoy the accompanying ambient music and video displays, but the sort of people he reaches out to through his Prince's Trust do: young people who are marrying secular culture with religious expres If the Prince is serious about bridge-

BILLIN INCOME.

building, he will find some firm support on the Anglican bank. But it might not be where he thinks it is: not on the high ground, but near the water.

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business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Foreign bidders picked for BBC Transmission

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

The £230m transmission business of the BBC last night looked set to pass into foreign hands, with the announcement that a US-French consortium, which includes a subsidiary of state-owned France Telecom, had been selected as the Corporation's preferred bidder.

The sale to foreign companies of a key part of the country's broadcasting infrastructure could generate additional criticism of the Government's privatisation policy. A wave of takeovers in the electricity industry has already seen foreign ownership of the sector soar.

The BBC has hotly denied that the sale is the first step toward the eventual privatisation of whole parts of the BBC, though it has confirmed it intends to spin off BBC Resources, which currently operates the transmission services and as well as other broadcast facilities, into a separate commercial subsidiary as early as this spring.

The managing partner in the preferred consortium is Castle Tower Corporation (CTC), based in Houston, while two investment firms, one of them American, are believed to own about 15 per cent. They are believed to have bid about £220m for the BBC's domestic radio and television transmission op-

An additional £10m is likely to be raised through the sale of the domestic transmission op-erations of the BBC World Service, for which a management group, backed by the investment company 3i, was yesterday named the preferred bidder. The proceeds of the Treasury, while the BBC will keep the net proceeds from the domestic disposal.

The surprise decision left NTL, Britain's leading transmission company, out of the running. Also overlooked were a management group backed by



for licence payers'

Mercury Asset Management and a consortium led by Securicor. NTL, owned by US-controlled cable company International Cable Tel, was privatised in 1991, and provides broadcasting services to ITV and Channel 4.

NTL said yesterday: "We are obviously disappointed," adding: "We are willing and able to meet the needs of the BBC in the event that they do not consummate an agreement with their preferred bidder.

The final four were drawn from 17 serious bids, out of 100 companies that had requested sales memorandums last year. a first step, the corporation in-CTC owns a stake believed to tends to achieve additional sav-vices. The BBC had also hoped

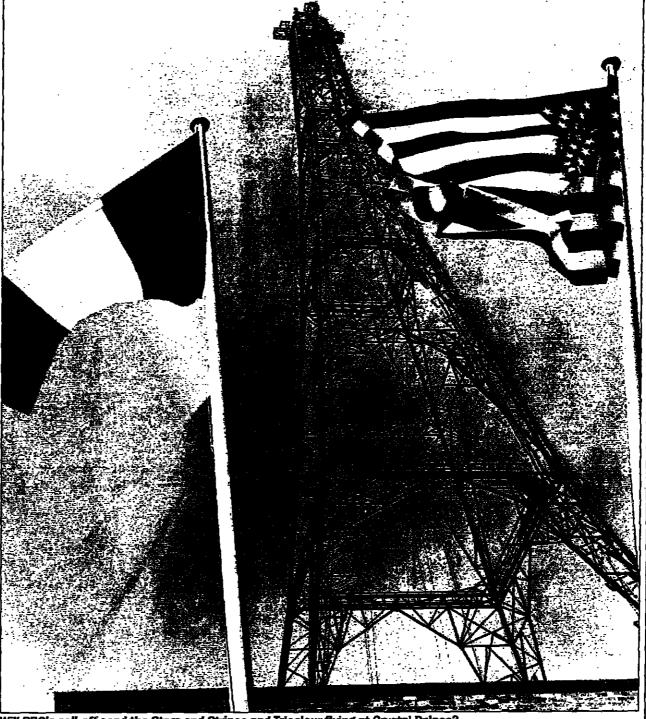
be at least 51 per cent in the preferred consortium, while two fi-Investments and Berkshire Partners, a leading US private equity investment fund are thought to have about 15 per cent between them. Telediffusion de France, a subsidiary of France Telecom, has the rest. The preferred bidder is believed to have made the high-

est financial offer. CTC, based in Houston, Texas, operates about 1,200 broadcast and wireless transmission sites in the US and the Caribbean. TDF already collaborates with the BBC on the development of digital tech-

hailed by Bob Phillis, head of the BBC's commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, as "excellent news for the licence fee payer." He added: "We have been concerned in this process not simply about the size of the bid in the brown envelope but about quality, reliability and costs." Under the privatisation, first announced in November 1995, the BBC will be assured a 10 year contract for transmission services from the new owners, under which any cost savings achieved will be passed on the

There will be no added burden to the licence payer," Mr Phillis said. "Quite the reverse." Currently, the BBC spends about £50m annually on transmission services, according to internal market estimates.

The sale was part of a fourpronged strategy to prepare the BBC for the digital age. As



Will BBC's sell-off send the Stars and Stripes and Tricolour flying at Crystal Palace?

three years, and to increase its commercial revenues from the development of subscription

ings of about 15 per cent over to convince the Government to agree a modest increase in the licence fee over five years. However, last month, the fee was set to be broadly neutral,

offset by subsequent decreases over the period.

"The sale [of the transmission assets) is good news, and comes at a time when there is to be no with a second year increase real increase in the licence fought by BBC unions.

the digital age," he added.

The privatisation has been

fee," Mr Phillis said. "It will help ensure we can continue to produce quality programming in

Airbus partners strike a deal

Michael Harrison

The four partners in Airbus Industrie last night reached agree-ment on plans to turn the aircraft manufacturer into a fully commercial limited com-

However, details of how the new company will be structured and what assets the partners will put into it will not emerge until a binding memorandum of understanding has been signed "over the next few

The delay in making a full announcement prompted speculation that the partners still had to iron out agreement on the timetable for progress towards Airbus becoming a full commercial entity.

Nevertheless, the fact that Airbus was able to make any statement at all following the meeting in Paris was taken as a step forward.

There has been a sharp disagreement between the partners as to what the new company should consist of. British Aerospace and Germany's Daimler Benz have been pressing for Airbus to take control of each partner's manufacturing operations. Aerospatiale of France was said to be resisting such farreaching change, preferring Airbus to remain a design and marketing consortium.

At present the four partners the other member of the consortium is Casa of Spain divide the work according to their respective shareholdings. charge Airbus for their contribution and account for profit or loss separately.

The fact that agreement has been reached on an MOU suggests that the Anglo-German axis has won the day. The delay in providing details of the new accord suggests that the partners have still to hammer out the time scale over which they hand their assets over to

the new commercial entity. "This is a very careful game of chess being played a piece at a time," said one observer. A BAe spokesman added that it was very satisfied with the out-

come of yesterday's meeting. The plan remains to have the new business up and running in 1999 with the ultimate intention of floating the business on the world's capital markets.

A report late last year from the US investment bank Lehman Brothers suggested that Airbus could be worth as much as \$18bn when it is floated and that profits before development costs and launch aid repayments could reach \$21bn over the next seven years.

on whether Airbus proceeds with the \$12bn launch of the A3XX - a new 600-plus seater super-jumbo jet to take on Boeing in the large jet market. BAe has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus, Daimler and Aerospatiale each hold 38 per cent

while Casa has a 4 per cent

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However, much will depend

Record rise in consumer borrowing renews pressure for higher rates

Magnus Grimond

The prospect of a quarter-point rise in interest later this month drew closer yesterday after it was revealed that lending to consumers soared to record levels in November. Hopes of a further rise in money rates allowed the pound to recoup nearly all the previous day's losses against the German mark and strengthen against the dollar.

The upsurge in consumer confidence has for the first time taken the total outstanding on credit cards, overdrafts and other unsecured lending to individuals beyond the levels of the boom years of the 1980s. Following last month's news of up from 3 per cent in 1996. a record fall in unemployment for November, analysts said

the lending figures from the up ahead of crucial figures on Bank of England would add to the pressure on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to raise rates after his meeting with Bank of England Governor Eddie George on 15 January.

Adam Cole, economist with brokers HSBC James Capel, said the latest news had to be a cause of some concern. "The fact is that consumers are experiencing quite strong income and supplementing that with quite strong borrowing as well ... If that continues you could see consumer spending picking up momentum in the year ahead." He forecasts growth of 4.5 per cent in the current year.

The only question, he said, was whether rates needed to go

retail sales in December and gross domestic product for the fourth quarter due in a few weeks. "I think the answer is, on balance, that they should."

But the Government bailed the lending data as further evidence of the strength of the economy. Michael Jack, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said: "This is a welcome set of figures which confirm the growing confidence of individuals in the strength of the economy. At a personal level borrowing remains sensible and [people are] well within their ability to service the credit they

want Net consumer credit rose by a seasonally adjusted £1.1bn pounds in November, up from

£875m in October and close to double the £600m increase reported in November 1995. The increase over the year has accelerated to 16.6 per cent. Adding in a £1.72bn rise in

mortgages, the total lent to individuals soared by £2.83bn. the biggest rise for six years. The evidence of a consumer boom was reinforced by figures from the John Lewis Partnership showing its department store recording sales 8.8 per cent ahead in the week to 28

December compared with the same week the previous year. But commentators suggested that the credit expansion was containable. The Council of Mortgage Lenders said the recovery in the housing market "should not cause concern

about the possibility of an uncontrolled house-buying boom". Separately, Oxford Economic Forecasting, an independent group, said higher interest rates, which it forecast will hit 7 per cent by the summer, would be required to dampen

growth in spending.

The pound added nearly three pfennigs to DM2.6353 and rose slightly against the dollar to \$1.6922

Other figures yesterday showed the UK's official reserves suffered an underlying outflow of \$109m in December. The Bank of England also confirmed earlier figures showing that M4, the broad measure of money supply which includes lending and deposits, grew10.8 per cent to November.

Woolwich to pay out £800 in shares

Banking Correspondent

More than 2.5 million members of Woolwich Building Society will find out next week that they will receive shares worth at least £800 when the society makes its stock market début later this year.

The precise details of the share distribution and estimated share price range will be revealed on Monday. This is when the society intends to start mailing its 100 page transfer document through first class post in an exercise which

is expected to take 11 days. Separately, the wait of the 9 million members of Halifax should also end soon. Halifax expects to reach a decision at start of the week on the mailing date of the transfer document for its £11bn stock market

flotation which has been planned since 1994. Woolwich's transfer document is expected to confirm that

its flotation, which is estimated at between £3bn to £3.5bn, will take the form of a two-pronged share distribution to members. First, each of the society's 2.5

million or so eligible members will get a flat distribution of shares, which are expected to be worth around £800. In addition, two-year savers with a minimum balance of £1,000 on 31 December 1995 and 11 February 1997 will receive an additional distribution of shares which could double the value of their share distribution.

The society is also writing to around 1 million of its members who it believes are not entitled to receive any shares or take part in the planned vote on 11 February in the Docklands.

Shock trust tax imposed by Finance Bill

John Willcock

Millions of individuals and companies that use trusts could be hit by an unexpected clause in the Finance Bill published yesterday which makes dividends from shares held by trusts vulnerable to income tax.

The Bill principally affects discretionary trusts, which are set up to allocate assets or income to specific beneficiaries. These trusts are used by individuals to distribute assets to their families, for instance, and by companies with share

schemes. Richard Law, corporate tax partner at Ernst & Young, said the Inland Revenue's original statements published with the October Budget had indicated trusts would be far safer from income tax.

Mr Richards said: "A change to the income tax treatment of trusts, arising from the change to the share purchase rules, has been hidden away in a schedule in defiance of public statements to the contrary. This is retrospective taxation and it is unacceptable."

Under Schedule 7, paragraph , of the Bill, the Government

has introduced a tax charge on "qualifying distributions made to trustees after 8 October 1996" (as part of the change to the taxation of buy-backs and company purchases of their own shares).
The Bill includes the state

ment that "this paragraph shall be deemed to have had effect

for the year 1996/7".

Mr Richards said that the Inland Revenue gave no hint of this, in fact the Revenue stated: "The income tax liability of taxpayers who receive such disthe change." Yet the Finance Bill would impose an extra 14 per cent income tax charge on these trusts, said Mr Richards.

More generally, Mr Richards noted: "Some of the draming for instance the finance lessor clauses - is pretty horrendous. Whatever happened to simplification?"

This point was echoed by Rosalind Rowe, director of Coopers & Lybrand's Property Finance Group.
"I'm disappointed that its an

extremely complex Bill for what it is trying to achieve. The changes to capital allowances on fixtures is really over the top."

BA to sell off stake in engineering operations

Michael Harrison

British Airways is to press ahead with plans to sell off a stake in its engineering operations following the arrival this Monday of a new managing director to head up the business. Colin Matthews, a former se-

nior executive with the US giant General Electric, takes over at British Airways Engineering with a remit to bring in fresh outside investment.

The move forms part of BA's radical strategy to cut £1bn from

TO 100

At the same time, however, BA plans to take on a similar number of staff in customer support jobs and yesterday announced that it will be hiring 1,000 customer service staff

over the coming year.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said that the intention was to convert BA Engineering into a separate limited company in due course. The injection of outside capital is expected to hap-

pen at the same time. BA Engineering employs 9,000 staff - about one sixth of the airline's workforce - and ac-

counts for around £800m of BA's

tal Service, 91; Lt-Gen Sir Michael Rose. UN commander in Bosnia, 57; £8bu turnover. It was converted into a separate profit centre in 1995 with the aim of increasing its independence from the main airline operations.

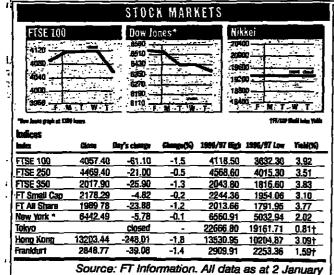
Mr Matthews, an engineer and management consultant. who formerly ran GE's Cana-dian hydro-turbine business, will also be expected to develop BA Engineering's sub-contract work. It already carries out work for 100 other airlines.

As part of its strategy of becoming a "virtual airline" BA has already announced the closure of its ground handling di-

of 750 jobs and the sale of its possible job losses will be achieved through early retireground fleet services division which employs 470 people at ment, voluntary redundancy Heathrow and Garwick. The airand redeployment elsewhere line is also outsourcing part of within the company. its accounting operations from west London to Bombay where wages are less than a fifth of their UK level. A total of 600

jobs are going from the 1,100 employed in BA's passenger revenue accounting operations over the next three years. The airline, which is waiting for final government approval to proceed with a transatlantic alliance with American Air-

BA has also pledged that it will take on broadly the same number of staff as it is cutting under the cost reduction plan. To this end it yesterday an-nounced a recruitment drive to hire an extra 1,000 customer service staff over the next 12 months. Most of the new staff will be employed as cabin crew based at either Heathrow or Gatwick and will be expected to Ayling: Seeking have a second language. CURRENCIES



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1855; Stella Dorothea Gibbons, poet Sargent", 3pm.

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JEREMY WARNER

'BT was once memorably described, probably accurately, as the most hated institution in the land. The lesson was you simply cannot have a privatised utility continuing to behave in the same cavalier

fashion towards

its customers'

Why privatisation has been a success story pioneered in the UK, but as the rest of the world takes up the fashion for selling off state assets with abandon, Britain has seriously cooled to whether it was ever such a good

needs some explaining. Privatisation was never a popular policy; many saw it as little more than Margaret Thatcher's gift to the English middle-classes. Each one was bitterly fought by the Government's political opponents, and for everyone who made a bob or two out of all those juicy stock market giveaways, hundreds more didn't and resented the easy

idea in the first place. Since privatisation is

arguably our biggest single contribution to the evolution of post-war commerce, this

gains made by those who did. There was a time, however, when privatisation was generally accepted as "a good thing", theoretically at least. Most of us bought the argument that business is on the whole, with adequate regulation, much better left to the private sector.

That is plainly no longer the case. The tendency these days is to highlight the failings of privatisation rather than its achievements. This is more than just a politically led swing of the pendulum. Knocking privatisation is not a pastime confined to Labourleaning commentators. The Tory press has been as vicious in lambasting "fat cat" salaries and "excessive" shareholder returns as anyone on the left. It was The Times which first urged the case for a windfall profits tax, and The Daily Telegraph which has been most consistent in its attacks on excess among the utilities.

Labour has naturally capitalised on all private sector. BT was forced to reform this, turning public suspicion and hatred of itself, and fast.

The answer is almost certainly no. There would, it is true, be no excessive profits or gains go to shareholder. This is true, then the the utilities into an electoral issue. Though it has no intention of renationalising these industries, it does intend to crack down on them hard - so hard, in fact, that many of the real gains in efficiency, standards of service and innovation which privatisation has brought about in the UK economy may be

So what has gone wrong here? Why has such an obviously attractive and rewarding policy resulted in such an overpowering popular backlash? The problem is that along with the cure, privatisation can have some very unappealing side-effects, particularly in its early years. These have been most apparent in the last three of the Government's big privatisations - water, elec-tricity and rail - but they were also there in the early years of British Telecom, now seen as a triumph of privatisation.

Think back to 1987. Here was this vast. unwieldy public utility, making profits of £100 a second or whatever it was, and yet half its telephone boxes didn't work, qual-ity of service was lousy, it was generally perceived to be expensive, there was no realistic alternative and you still had to join a waiting list to get a new telephone line.

BT was once memorably described, probably accurately, as the most hated institution in the land. Here was a privatised utility that behaved in the same cavalier fashion towards its customers as if it were still in the public sector. Abuse of monopoly might be tolerated when the utility forms part of the state, but not when in the

None of these strictures are recognisable in today's British Telecom. Even the Labour Party has embraced it as a model for the rest of corporate Britain. Today we have better quality of service, more choice and lower prices in Britain than almost anywhere else in the world apart from the United States. BT is also at the forefront of international developments in telecoms. Liberalisation and privatisation are the two key causes of this extraordinary turnaround. The lesson seems to be, therefore, that provided privatisation is also accompanied by liberalisation, initial teething difficulties are eventually overcome to produce publicly recognised advances.

With water, electricity and rail, it is prov-ing much more difficult to introduce competition into the market, virtually impossible in the case of water. As a result we have had to rely solely on regulation to protect the public interest. This regulation has frequently been seen as wanting. Perhaps more seriously, these industries have embraced wholeheartedly all the worst manifestations of corporate excess.

The general perception, mostly accurate, is that of excessive profits, excessive executive pay and options, excessive returns to shareholders, under-investment and a raw deal for customers. Ergo, regulation and privatisation haven't worked.

There is a flip side to the coin, however. Would the situation have been any better had these industries not been privatised?

pay packets, or fabulous returns for shareholders. But, equally, nothing would have changed. These companies would have remained bloated and inefficient enterprises, and despite their public ownership,

largely unaccountable for their failings. Yorkshire Water's inability two summers ago to provide its customers with water was certainly as had a case as they come of management and regulatory failure, but it would be wrong to think of it as a failure of privatisation as such. Indeed, the fact that Yorkshire Water is privatised, that the service offered is now not just a public service but also a consumable commodity, gives customers channels of redress and accountability they would never have had amid the fudge and obfuscation of the public sector.

What then to do about the problem of excess? Labour's proposed solution is to fiddle around with price cap regulation, the cornerstone of economic regulation of the utilities. The difficulty with this approach is that it is actually price cap regulation which provides one of the key underlying economic justifications for privatisation - incentive to improved efficiency. In other words, Labour may be throwing the baby out with the bathwater if it attempts to address the problem of excess by abandoning the concept of price cap regulation.

The reason for this is that the system is set up, almost deliberately, to allow excess. Prices are capped at a pre-specified level for a period of time, generally five years. If the gains go to shareholders. This is where the "excess" comes from. However, if the system works as it should, these gains are later realised on behalf of the customer at the time of the periodic price review, when there should be a big step down in prices. The excess thus ultimately ends up with the cus-

The fact that regulators have perhaps not heen as harsh as they should have been at the time of these periodic reviews demonstrates a failure in regulation, but it doesn't mean that the whole system of price cap regulation is wrong. Certainly there is a powerful case for reform of the institutions of regulation - more accountability, greater transparency and the like.

But what Labour wants to do goes a lot further. It wants to put price reviews on an annual basis, and moreover, to introduce a method of sharing any excess generated between customers and shareholders. It can readily be seen that the effect of this when combined with the windfall profit tax will be to remove virtually all incentive to improved efficiency.

Indeed it might actually work the other way, with utilities failing to meet assumed rates of return and customers having to share in the consequent losses. There would be no incentive to improvement.

By attempting to remove some of the more unpalatable effects of privatisation, then, Labour will also be destroying the radical. reforming aspects of the process, to the ultimate detriment not just of shareholders, but utility exceeds the regulator's assumptions of customers, too. Is that what we really want?

Tinta sticks to guns despite retreat by cable giant TCI

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

TCI International (Tinta), the overseas arm of US cable giant TCI, yesterday vowed to continue its dual strategy of investing in both content and distribution, despite signs the parent company was retreating to its core cable business.

Tinta, which controls paytelevision company Flextech and 26 per cent of Telewest, the UK cable operator, "will continue to follow its two lines of businesses in major markets", a spokesperson said.

The commitment came as John Malone, chief executive of management in place to achieve TCI told a US newspaper his -our goals," the spokesperson multi-track strategy of investing in the Internet, telephones and cable had been too ambitious, over-hyped and impossible to

carry out on schedule. "We were just chasing too many rabbits at the same time," Mr Malone told the Wall Street Journal. Mr Malone, who has seen TCFs share price plummet

the cable business, where nearly all TCI's past success has come. The moves marks a postponement of his plans to spend more time with his family.

The growth of direct-tohome satellite services in the US has posed a serious challenge to the cable industry in the past year, and Mr Malone said he would work to accelerate the introduction of digital cable services to meet the competitive

But Tinta, 83 per cent-owned by TCI, said its strategy remained unchanged, despite Mr Malone's comments. "We are run separately, and we have the It was also confirmed last

night that TCI was proceeding with plans to spin off two subsidiaries - Tinta and Liberty Media – to shareholders, as a further sign of refocusing strategy. Liberty Media groups TCI's programming businesses, including part of its joint-venin recent months following poor ture investment in Fox Sports. results and rising debt, said he in league with Rupert Murwould focus his attentions on doch's News Corporation.

Tinta welcomed the news of TCI's spin-off plans last night, saying that it made sense to view the international operations of TCI as a separate entity.

Assuming there are no adverse tax implications, TCI will move this year to spin Tinta off to TCI shareholders, which into its shareholders which include several leading US and UK financial institutions. Mr Malone controls about 13 per cent of



John Majone: Impossible to meet our schedule

In the UK, Tinta owns 51 per cent of Flextech, the pay-TV packager, which recently announced it was negotiating to sign a joint venture with the BBC to launch new pay-TV channels. As well, Flextech owns stakes in UK Gold, UK Living, Bravo and other pay-TV channels. Overseas, Tinta is

and Japan. Tinta's main distribution investment in the UK is the large stake in Telewest, which was re cently pushed into second position in the UK cable market by Cable & Wireless Communications, the newly formed UK leader.

also active in Argentina, Chile

dreds of channels of programming and pay-per-view films. Telewest is also understood to

be in negotiations with at least two cable operators. Comcast and General Cable, about taking them over, in a further indication that Tina's content and distribution strategy re-

£48m Azlan rights issue flops

Tom Stevenson City Editor

A £48.5m rights issue to fund a Dutch acquisition by computer distribution company Azlan has flopped, leaving egg on the face of SBC Warburg which arranged and underwrote the deal. Most of the 8.2 million shares issued in the cash call were left with the institutions that sub-underwrote the issue after Azlan's share price plunged below the 620p at which the rights was pitched. Azlan's shares had been trad-

November. They fell to 577p, however, as the City voted with its feet on a deal which it worried would dilute Azlan's high margins and knock its market rating. Yesterday the shares closed unchanged at 567.5p. The rights issue money was

planned to fund the acquisition of Dutch computing company Akam and to finance general working capital needs. But it came at an awkward time for Warburg, whose electronics analysts Mark Loveland had foling at 740p only days before the lowed Azlan since its flotation returns will fall. Azlan's recent

raise the money at the end of to join Kleinwort Benson. Azlan, headed by Chris Mar-

tin, has grown quickly over the which is a leading provider of past few years and is widely respected in the computer industry for its knowledge of the staff at four branches, was deproducts it sells and the provision of good after-sales service. It supplies networking equipment that allows computers to communicate with each other.

Alan's high-flying shares,

Historically this has been a high-margin business but City analysts have started to worry that as networking becomes more established those high

company said it planned to but moved in early November diversification into training added to City concerns.

The acquisition of Akam. network computer training in the Netherlands, employing 188 signed to augment that training business. Azlan already had three training sites in the UK

which had come to the market at 230p in 1993, had already received one set-back in Novemher when Mr Martin said he planned to sell 200,000 shares

Battle for Lloyds Chemists renewed

Magnus Grimond

end of the year, featuring hun- | Lloyds Chemists sparked into gain more from a buy-back of year. life yesterday after Gehe, the German bidder, said its rival UniChem would be better off mounting a share buy-back than bidding for Lloyds.

In an echo of past attacks on UniChem. Gehe claimed the other bid held "substantial risks" for shareholders in both mains unaffected by Mr Mal- companies. In a letter adone's retrenchment in the US. I dressed to UniChem's share- planned synergies had mate-

UniChem shares at current levels than from acquiring Lloyds.

Buying 20 per cent of its shares would see a 13 per cent earnings enhancement in 1997, Gebe contends.

By contrast, if certain risks such as higher interest rates or the failure to achieve the

holders. Dieter Kammerer, rialised last year, the group tried to to paint a negative pic-Telewest is taking the lead to introduce a digital service by the The £650m bid battle for ment board, said they would dilution of over 15 per cent last Combining Lloyds and

> bid battle, approaching its first stream for shareholders and to anniversary, drew an immediate riposte from UniChem. Jeff Harris, chief executive, dismissed the claims as uninspired.

"Gehe recognises the bene-

UniChem is expected to de-The latest onslaught in the liver an enhanced earnings deliver value. Lloyds' shareholders should recognise the value of UniChem's offer."

There is not expected to be a high level of acceptances for UniChem's cash and shares fits of combining UniChem's terms when the results of the business with Lloyds and that's second closing date yesterday why time after time it has are announced on Monday.

Likely winners and losers under Labour THE INVESTMENT COLUMN As 1997 gets under way one thing is

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

the next government will be the first Labour administration for almost two decades and many first-time voters will for the first time in their lives experilooks unlikely, either from higher inence something other than a Tory Britain. Plainly this year will be a watershed - what does it mean for investors? A glance at history paints a rather

encouraging picture. Some of the freed up from that source. best years for stock market investors were in the Labour administration of the late 1970s when, albeit from a very low base after the great bear market of 1973 and 1974, shares quadrupled. The Tory years that opened the 1970s, blighted by the oil shocks and first miners' strike, were an unmitigated disaster for equities.

certain - there will be an election this

year. Not certain but probable is that

So much for history. On policy, the rather unsatisfactory answer is that Tony Blair and his shadow cabinet have given so little away that it is hard to make other than informed guesses about Labour's economic and social plans. But a picture is beginning to emerge and it is possible to make at least broad brush forecasts about which sectors will be the greatest winners and losers from a change of government.

It looks likely that Labour will inherit a healthier economic landscape than at any time in living memory. The UK appears to have pulled off the trick of creating economic growth without driving up inflation. Its external account is broadly in balance and unemployment is falling. It would take a loonier strain of Labour than the current one to do too much damage in those circumstances.

There is a fairly broad consensus that the stock market will enjoy a jit-tery year, even more in thrall to Wall Street than it has always been and vulnerable to even apparently minor

pieces of US economic news. Within what many brokers predict will be a broadly unchanged market, however, some sectors look more appealing than others. Some of the strongest performers of 1996, sectors broadly influenced by increased consumer spending, look like having another good year. Labour has spoken of becoming the party of low taxation so an early fiscal hit to the consumer

come tax rates or an extension to VAT Indeed, one of Labour's few policy commitments is to reduce the rate of VAT applicable to fuel and energy so additional spending power might be

Best of the consumer areas are those associated with discretionary spending such as retailers, leisure companies, brewers and restaurants. The food sectors are less susceptible to changes in discretionary spending and could lag in the absence of inflation. Alcoholic beverages' fortunes, while discretionary, are determined by wider global pricing issues and may struggle to progress.

Given Labour's unwillingness to tax the individual, it seems likely that it will pay for its other commitments in education and health by increasing the take from corporate taxation. According to Nat West Securities, a 2p pathetic ear by Labour. It has usually

rise in company tax to 35p in the pound is possible. That will hit companies across the board, but other widely flagged plans such as the pro-posed windfall tax will hit certain utilities hard. Much of that is already priced in, however, and arguably some companies now look oversold. Another area where the stock mar-

ket may be worrying unduly is service companies where the fear is that the introduction of a minimum wage will push up overheads. Initially the attitude of business to the idea of a pay floor was quite hostile but many quoted companies have changed tack, realising that they pay more than the projected bottom hourly rate and might benefit if smaller rivals are put out of business by the move. Perhaps the biggest winners of all which have always been lent a sym-

T&N : AT A GLANCE

Market value: 2927.7m, share price 174.5p

been prepared to bail British manufacturers out with a devaluation of the pound. There is the prospect of investment being given a boost by in-creased depreciation allowances and infrastructure spend may increase. Perhaps the biggest change of all

in recent years, however, is the absence of any tangible difference between the two main parties. With economic decisions increasingly gov-erned by the hidden hand of global capital markets. Westminster's power is on the wane. That can only be a good thing for investors.

T&N undergoes a sea change

will be manufacturing companies. The flurry of excitement yesterday over the possibility that T&N might be about to lose its option to buy Ger-

change that has taken place at the former asbestos producer. The attempt to take over Kolbenschmidt has been a long saga and the lapsing of the op-tion over a quarter of the shares held by Commerzbank was not being seen yesterday as a serious set-back to T&N's ambitions. But it is significant in that for the first time in ages the investment focus has switched back to its engineering business rather than the asbestos-liabilities that have dogged the group for so long.

The thanks for that go to November's ground-breaking insurance deal, the £92m premium for which was paid on Thursday. Along with close to £500m of provisions, it is hoped that the resulting £1.2bn cover for future liabilities from those suffering from asbestos-related diseases will cap what had seemed like an open-ended responsibility.

tive to investors for two reasons.

is clearly plenty to go for. The second reason for hope about T&N is that a rival like GKN will now do the recovery job itself by taking it over. Either way, releasing time and resources from asbestos should allow the group to concentrate on expand-

Charterhouse Tilney this year, the shares at 174p, up 3.5p, look good value on a forward p/e of 9. The danger remains that T&N is being guilty of the over-optimism that has been its hallmark in the past, but the omens here are better than for some time.

man pistons manufacturer Kolbenschmidt serves to underline the sea Hudson guits Wagon Industrial

The net result is that the market can increasingly focus on the company's main automotive components businesses, ranging from brake linings to engine parts. Paradoxically, it is the group's previous underperformance here that could make it more attrac-

Firstly, there should be benefits in the share price as management focuses all its attention on improving cash flow and the performance of some of its manufacturing operations. Cash flow has been abysmal for years, but management are now getting to grips with the underlying problems. Working capital at the half year in June had been slashed from £84.9m to £50.9m, although with stocks still at well over two months' supplies there

ing its operations overseas.

If profits hit the £164m forecast by

IN BRIEF

Costain faces second hostile meeting

Beleagured construction group Costain faces its second hostile extraordinary meeting in just over a week on Monday when it gathers at London's Barbican Centre to ratify part of its recently announced rescue plan.

It will also discuss the issue of new shares to its Indonesian backers. Friends of the Earth has indicated it plans to mount a protest at the meeting over Costain's continuing involvement with the controversial Newbury by-pass.

John Hudson has resigned from Wagon Industrial, the troubled engineering group with immediate effect. A statement said Mr Hudson had seen the appointment of David Kendall as successor to retiring chairman Paul Taylor as "an appropriate time to seek new challenges". A successor will be sought in the new year.

Scott Pickford bid war on cards

A bid war for the oil exploration and engineering group Scott Pickford looked likely yesterday after the company said it had received a bid approach "from a substantial and credible party". The announcement means a second potential suitor has emerged for the group after Australian company Aerodata expressed an interest in a takeover last month. Scott Pickford said that if a new offer were made it would probably be at around 53p a share compared with the 48p a share offered by Aerodata. Aerodata, which provides information from the air and related services for oil and mineral exploration companies, planned to buy 2.5 million shares at 48p each, giving it a 20 per cent stake in Scott Pickford, Scott Pickford's AIM quoted shares rose 6.5p on the news to 51p.

Rotork sells loss-makers for £1.4m

Rotork, the specialist engineering group, has sold its two lossmaking analysis businesses for a combined total of £1.4m. The gas business has been acquired by Signal Instruments while the oil refinery unit has gone to Sysco Analytics. Rotork's chief executive, Bill Whiteley, said: "The disposal of Rotork Analysis's businesses results from a strategic review which has been undertaken during the year. Rotork wishes to focus on areas which are more complementary to its core actuation business."

French car sales slump forecast

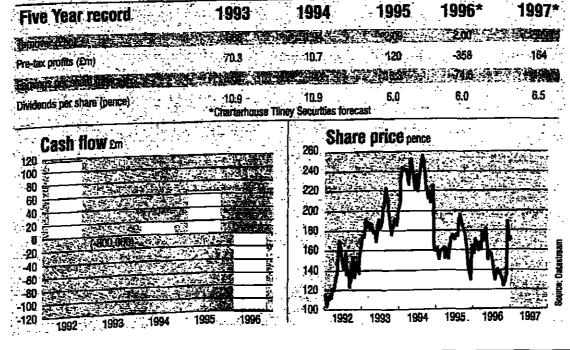
Sales of new cars in France are expected to decline by around 10 per cent to 1.93 million units in 1997, according to a senior director at Peugeot. Orders declined 10 per cent in December after a similar drop in November, with the reduction reflecting the ending of a government subsidy for new car purchases in September, he said.

ICI buys Swiss paint group

ICI has strengthened its European operations through the acquisition of a Swiss paints group Rutz und Huber. The firm has been the exclusive distributor of ICT's Autocolour car refinish and commercial transport products in Switzerland for the past 20 years. Rutz und Huber has annual sales of around £3m.

Asda property on parade

Asda Property Holdings has a acquired a parade of shops in Solihuli from Land Securities for £6.2m. The current rental is £609,000



market report/shares

Data Bank **FTSE 100**

4089.5 + 32.1 **FISE 250** 4493.6 + 24.2**FTSE 350** 2932.7 + 14.8

SEAO VOLUME 519.6m shares, 29,414 bargains

Gilts Index



Almost like old times as Hanson tops blue-chip pile

It was almost like old times - seems to be scouting for bolt-Hanson top of the blue chips pile. What is left of the once feared empire rose 4.25p to 85.75p, highest since October. US buying, including a programme trade, was the spur for the advance. Many American deals were completed at the equivalent of 88p.

Last year Hanson's much vaunted demerger left Mil-lennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco as stand-alone companies. Energy Group, embracing Eastern Electricity, is due to go its own separate way in the next month or so. The rump of the once sprawling conglomerate, em-

blazoned as New Hanson, is already flexing its muscles and talking about US acquisitions. Andrew Dougal, chief executive, has said it is seeking

Hanson's revival coincided with the stock market almost, but not quite, throwing off its New Year hangover. With New York seemingly intent on continuing its overnight rally Footsie recovered more than half Thursday's collapse with a 32.1-points gain to 4,089.5. But trading remained thin with the ranks of City operatives still far from com-

Stores made headway, sup-ported by the latest John Lewis Partnership statement. The group reported total sales up 23.5 per cent last week al-though there was a 2.5 per cent fall in the previous week. WH Smith, said to be helped by a badly executed buy order, rose 25p to 456.5p and Storehouse

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

raft of options.

GB has the franchise to op-

stock market reporter of the year

House of Fraser was firm at Monday. Placed at 100p the 151.5p. Franklyn, a US investshares are expected to race ment group, and its affiliates ahead to around 180p. have built a 9 per cent shareholding. Turnover topped, ac-cording to Seaq. 1 million shares with a series of marketerate Anglia Railways and is seeking other routes. The founders will have 23.14 per maker trades going through at 152p intriguing observers.

The cold weather failed to provide much inspiration for oil shares but Kwik-Fit, the tyres and exhausts group, jumped 15.5p to 233p, anticipating the impact of the icy conditions on car parts.

Railtrack was back on the

at 60p, taking the Harding Group, supported by ABN stake to 27 per cent.

Glazo Wellcome ignored 15p at 587.5p.

doubts, expressed in this week's Lancer medical journal, about its Lamivudine drug used in liver transplants. The shares rose 7p to 933.5p. Biocompatibles International romped ahead another 40p to 905p; ML Laboratories con-

tinued its hesitant revival with a 19p advance to 229.5p. Granada added 12p to 858p after completing the sale of the Hotel George V in Paris and EMI, the hot takeover stock of cent after the flotation and a The latest football club to ar-1997, produced another high rive, West Bromwich Albion note performance, up 23.5p to 1,402.5p. National Westminster Bank took AIM via an introduction; opening price was £280.

was 11.5p higher at 696.5p af-ter Crédit Lyonnais Laing de-West Brom play Chelsea today in the FA Cup. Chelsea Village, running the Stamford scribed the shares as the cheapest in the sector and a

Among exploration shares JKX Oil & Gas, with interests in the former Soviet Union, fell op to 104p. The shares were 190p in the spring. Scott Pickford kept the oil take over pot boiling with news of a second potential bidder. The shares

gained 6.5p to 51p.

Anite, the old Cray Electronics, managed a modest surge, gaining 5p to 41.5p as some banked on this being its recovery year. Highams Systems, supplying IT products and business services to the financial services industry, jumped 43.5p to 175p. The shares were floated last month

at 72p. Hambro Countrywide, continued to push ahead, up 2p at

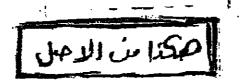
Haemocell, the struggling healthcare group which was once a high flyer, has man-aged to raise £2m to continue to develop and market its blood filter treatment. The company had warned that not be able to continue to trade. The shares, a casualty of the USM's closure, are due to start trading on AIM on Monday. Last price was 4p.

Taking Stock

TRangers, the Glasgow club traded on Ofex, is rumoured to be near to seeking a stock market listing. The shares have been strong and rose a further 60p to 535p yesterday.

☐Xavier Computer, the acquisitive company, has com-pleted the take over of CSL International for £3.2m in

Bridge club, gained 4p to buy up to 900p. Rolls-Royce reputed to be US takeovers, an ambition added 8.5p to 265p. JLP's sucbuy track riding ahead 15p to 121.5p. Executors of the late 101.5p, on the growing opti-394.5p and offering a good head of steam for GB Railways, cess with its Waitrose super-Matthew Harding, the former which could inspire the US invice-chairman, exercised an option to buy 7.5 million shares SBC Warburg's share for the and SDX Business Systems 160 JEMAHJJASONDJ markets lifted the superstore are expected to return to AIM contemplated but Hanson shares a few coppers. due to arrive on the market on year, rose 8.5p to 259p and TI gained 12p to 200.5p. **Share Price Data** Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share The Independent Index The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 123 335, and when prompte dto do so enter the 4-digit code Oil Exploration Banks, Retail ### 1975 | Sign | 1985 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 N 775 Electricity 89 Batteh Errogy 79 679 Sea Matter Block Control Block 80 955 Landon Block 80 955 Landon Block 80 955 Landon Block 80 955 Landon Block 80 957 Sea Hydro 90 907 Souther Block 90 907 Block 90 907 Souther Block 90 907 Block 90 907 Souther Block 90 907 Souther Block 90 907 Block 90 907 Block 90 907 Souther Block 90 907 Blo 75 54 APriGrup 76 45 Apri Printing 70 45 Apri Hotogs 70 45 Apri Hotogs 70 45 Apri Hotogs 70 45 Apri Hotogs 70 45 Barriors 70 645 Barriors 70 6 279 278 368 3840 385 385 5354 166 100mm 100m 4632 1245 1300 1701 2228 1332 1260 1860 1860



NEW FACES FOR A NEW YEAR: Slow left-armer has overcome rejection by home county as David Llewellyn finds out

Wiles of Giles make Warwickshire smile

By any standards last year was a remarkable one for Ashley Giles. The slow left-arm bowler, rejected by Surrey four years ago in favour of three others who have since left the county and in a couple of cases come to grief, just could not do anything wrong for Warwickshire

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"It was amazing," says the ge-nial Giles, a veritable heavyweight at 6ft 4in and 16 stones. Everything went well, whatever I did. It all seemed to work out. Of course you have to be positive whatever, you have to believe in yourself, but even so last year was incredible for me."

Essentially what happened was that Giles established himself primarily as a bowler of great potential, doing enough to earn himself a place on the successful England A tour of Australia: but, in addition, the 23-year-old showed himself to be an improving batsman, bringing his county season to a close with a maiden, unbeaten century.

"I don't know what would have happened if I had been at Surrey," says the Chertsey-born Giles. "It's difficult to say. But since joining Warwickshire my bowling has developed beyond all recognition and the bonus is that my batting has also come on in leaps and bounds,"

It could have been so different if Giles had not been given the kindest of kicks up the backside by his father, Michael, after Surrey said they had no use for him as a slow left-arm bowler. "They told me in 1991 that they had three slow leftarmers on the staff — Keith Medlycott, Neil Kendrick and Mark Bainbridge — and that there was no room for me."

It is one of life's wicked little ironies that all three have since been released by Surrey.

Medlycott is now coaching in South Africa, Kendrick, having joined Glamorgan, has since been released by the Welsh county and Bainbridge has slipped out of the first-class game as well, and all the while Giles has thrived.

The problem was that Giles was regarded as a left-arm seamer. Unfortunately, he suffered a back injury when he was 15 and found that orthodox leftarm slow bowling not only did not exacerbate the injury, but that it also ac-

them, for his . side, Guildford. Surrey insisted that he con-

tually produced

seam, but Giles was turning more and more to the slow stuff. "I don't think

they were even that interested in signing me as to come from within. "It's all a seamer anyway," he says without a trace of bitterness. "All the same I was devastated at the time. I grew up wanting to play for Surrey, like all kids want to play for their county. But I understood their problem. My Dad gave me a kick up the arse and told me to get on with it. He has been the single most important influence in my life. He would drive me all over the country for various courses when I was a youngster. He has never pushed me though, he has only ever given me a helping hand When Surrey said no he helped

me write to other counties. And in 1992 sharp-eyed Warwickshire stepped in. "It was a big decision, "Giles said. "I was 19 at the time. It seemed a mo-

South Africa 529-7dec

mentous step to take. I had no a bright international future at idea how it would work out. In the highest level. In last season's fact it's been fantastic."

When he moved up to Edgbaston Bob Woolmer, the current coach of South Africa, was in charge. "Bob helped me a great deal of course, but Dermot Reeve, as captain, gave me an amazing amount of self-confidence. Dermot brought me out of tny shell as a cricketer. More recently Phil Neale, having taken over from Bob Woolmer, has been great. He has always found

time to help me with my wickets, lots of 'It is such a good batting, taking time out to give feeling when me a net or some throwyou know you downs. That is very important tinued with have the batsman to someone at on edge a bit need that sort of backing," and on the run' But, like any

> man, much has very well taking wickets at club level, but it is a lot different in first-class cricket," Giles says. "I have had to work out a lot for myself. Much of my progress has been due to natural development. I have not been bowling orthodox slow-left arm for that long so I am still discovering a lot about it for myself."

talented sports-

As for his batting he reveals: 'I began batting at No 11 last season, moved up to 10 and finally found myself coming in at eight or even seven and I wound up with the century. It's great to be given that responsibility, and again Dermot played a big part in that."

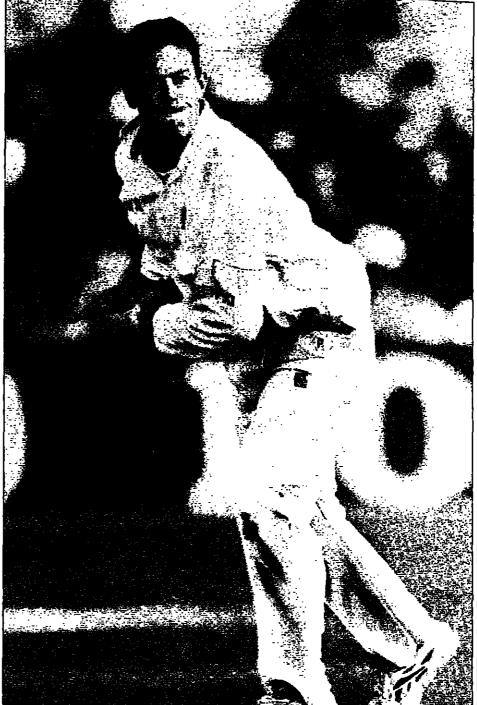
There are those who are now regarding Giles as a genuine spinning all-rounder with

County Championship, Giles completed an all-round double, scoring more than 500 runs (average almost 35) and taking 55 wickets at 27.81.

As for his England prospects, they are in the lap of the selectors. His A tour, no easy ride for anyone, under the captainty of former Surrey Under-19 colleague Adam Hollioake, while not a continuation of the summer's success, was certainly no failure. He finished up as the leading first-class wicket-taker on the tour with 19, and his consistency showed through with a return of 27 runs per victim, slightly better than what he achieved for Warwickshire in the summer.

Giles remains cautious, his sights firmly set on the immediate future. After all I have only had one good season for Warwickshire and a pretty good England A tour," he says. "I don't think I can realistically stake a claim for an England place on the strength of that. I just have to show that last year was not a one-off. Next season I will be looking to take more wickets and to score more runs... It would be great eventually to play for my country, particularly a Test at The Oval and, of course, at Edgbaston, my home ground."

At least he is hungry enough. His enthusiasm shines like a beacon in everything he says and does. Bowling clearly gives him a lot of satisfaction, and a great deal of pleasure. "A lot of days last year the ball came out beautifully, and it is such a good feeling when you know you have the batsman on edge a bit and on the run. I am look-



kicks off season Athietics

Injury-free

Jackson

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Colin Jackson takes his first competitive steps of the season in the Birmingham Games today as he seeks to regain his position as the world's best high-hurdler.

Britain's world record holder. 30 next month, has been eclipsed in the last two years by Allen Johnson of the United States, who has taken the world and Olympic titles.

In contrast to last season. when he was troubled with a knee injury. Jackson is fully fit after a trouble-free period of winter training in Australia. He is looking forward to a full indoor season - including the world indoor championships in Paris in March as part of his preparation for this year's world outdoor championships in Athens.

Jackson opens his year in the 60 metres flat, the event at which he became European indoor champion in 1994. Among his opponents will be the 1992 European indoor champion. Jason Livingston, who is continuing his comeback after returning at the end of summer

from a four-year drug ban.

Colin knows that '97 should be a year of re-establishing himself," said Britain's coaching chief Malcolm Arnold, who has guided Jackson's career. "He is certainly highly motivated by it. And, importantly, he has been training in Australia

without any problems."

In Belfast, the Coca-Cola
International Cross-country provides another of Britain's Olympians, Paula Radeliffe. with a further opportunity to measure her fitness after she returned from a knee injury to finish third in last Saturday's race at Durham. The women's field. which contains all the main contenders from Durham, including the winner, Ethiopia's world champion Gete Wami. will be strengthened by the presence of Romania's European cross-country champion,

Iulia Negura. The race, which forms the third round of the LAAF World Cross Challenge, offers the Belfast organisers the chance to convince the international body that the city remains the right Cross-country Championships.

Having secured the event last year, Belfast has seen its position threatened in recent months by the breakdown of the peace process. "We are keeping our fingers crossed," said Bri-an Hill, of the 1999 organising committee.

The IAAF president, Primo Nebiolo, said last month that as far as he was concerned Belfast was still the choice. But IAAF sources have confirmed that other potential locations have

The men's race, despite lacking the Durham winner, Jon Brown, sees other leading Britons in Paul Evans and Andrew Pearson facing James Kariuki and Christopher Kelong of

India collapse as South Africa pile on records



Sohail in action for Pakistan in their World Series defeat to the West Indies in Brisbane yesterday. His bat bears the logo of a tobacco company sponsor, which **Pakistanis** are persisting with despite an Australian govern-ment order banning

tobacco advertising Photograph: Reuter

a tiring attack as he and the A run-a-ball century from Lance Klusener followed by an Indian collapse left South Africa in an unassailable posi-

second Test in Cape Town yes-

more sedate centurion, Brian McMillan, broke a 95-year-old mark to set an eighth-wicket record partnership of 147 in South Africa's 529 for 7 de-

tion on the second day of the close. India's reply began disastrously when Woorkeri Raman was run out for five by

With Paul Adams following

up with the wicket of nightwatchman Venkatesh Prasad for a duck, India were 29 for 3 at the close still needing a fur-Facing a tricky 16 overs to the ther 301 to avoid the follow-on. the second time three South

been put in a strong position by Klusener and McMillan, whose Klusener, batting at No 9, Klusener, who then completed 147 in 140 minutes eclipsed the terday. launched a ferocious assault on an unforgettable day by bowl- country's previous record of 124

ing Rahul Dravid in his first set in 1902-03 by A W Nourse cluded a record seventh-wickand E A Halliwell against Australia in Johannesburg. The total was South Africa's

highest since their readmission to the Test scene and their best against India. It was also only South Africa had already Africans had scored centuries in the same Test innings following Gary Kirsten's 103 yes-

A day of records also in-

et stand against India of 83 between McMillan and Dave Richardson (39).

India face a long haul to get back into the series, having lost the first of the three Tests by 328

TUINS.
(Second day: South Africa won toss)
SOUTH AFRICA - First Innings
(overnigh: 290 for 4)
"W J Cronye c Monga b Srinesh
B M McMitten not cut.
S M Potocs c Tendular b Presad
1D J Richardson c Dravid b Smeth
(b) Secret not out.

S Ganguy not out

V Prasad b Adams

S R Tendulfur not out

Extras (nb-2)

Total (for 3)

Felt: 1-7 2-24 3-25

To bet: th R Monge, M Azheruddin, V V Lax-man, A kumble, J Srinath, D Ganesh. Bowling: Donald 6-3-7-0; Politick 5-1-15-0; Adams 3-1-3-1; Klusener 2-1-4-1.

Hooper and Bishop supply inspiration for West Indies' victory Pakistan 197 Indies maintained their recent Adams in an unbroken fifth- other failure to his name after wicketkeeper Moin Khan. The hopes of the New South

West Indies 198-4

West Indies win by six wickets

brated Brian Lara's return to form with a six-wicket victory over Pakistan in their limited overs World Series match in Brisbane yesterday. Lara ended a dismal run of

low scores by hitting 48 as West

improvement in a tense encounter at the Gabba.

In reply to Pakistan's total of 197 in 49.5 overs, West Indies A resurgent West Indies celescored 198 for 4 with 11 balls to Carl Hooper, batting one

place below Lara at No 5, scored an unbeaten 54, his 20th in limited-overs internationals, to guide his side to victory. Hooper was joined by Jimmy

runs, Adams contributed a valuable 33 not out. Lara, who has endured a

miserable Test series against Australia, scoring a paltry seven runs in his last four innings, finally found some touch and timing. But the world record holder for the highest score in Test cricket almost found himself back in the pavilion with an-

wicket partnership worth 74 a tentative start.

The West Indies vice-captain was extremely fortunate to survive a huge appeal for leg before wicket after playing back in his crease to a yorker from the fast bowler Mohammad Zahid.

Coming back into the attack for a second spell of extreme pace, Zahid accounted for Lara when the left-hander offered a catch off the bottom edge to the

a lively pitch before ljaz Ahmed steadied their nerves with a patient 59 off 122 balls. Ian Bishop took for 4 for 38 with his pace bowling.

Sent into bat by the West In-Wales opener Michael Slater, dies captain Courtney Walsh, who is aiming to regain his place Pakistan stumbled to 47 for 4 on in the Australian side, suffered again yesterday when he was dismissed cheaply in a Sheffield Shield match to extend his miserable run of form. Slater, who was dropped last year at the start of the current Test series against West Indies, was bowled South Australia paceman

Total (for 7 dec, 162.5 overs) ... Fall (cont): 5-291 6-299 7-382

Did not bat: A A Donald, P Adam

Ganguty 9-1-24-0; Raman 5-1-18-0 INDIA - First innings

heen discussed. Kenya. Shane George for three.

Q UOTES OF THE WEEK

Zimbabwe are at the bottom of the ladder and England are quickly replacing them. We are fast going down the cricketing phighole here. Bob Wills, former England captain and now Sky commentator.

To me England, New Zealand and us should now be ranked joint bottom in-Test terms, there's cer-tainly not much between us. Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell.

England must shrug off their superiority complex and get down to the nitty gritty. Campbell

Turn off your phone or get the hell out of here, Thomas Muster, Austrian tennis player, tells spectators at the Oatar Open to turn off their mobile phones.

He's the best [striker] in the world. No doubt about it. Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, on Alan Shearer after his goals in the 3-0 win over Leeds. Even Stevie Wonder would have spotted that one. Bradford manager Chris Kamara after referee David Orr had failed to penalise an apparent handball in the area from Norwich's Mike Milligan Tiger [Woods] is the Chosen One. He'll have the power to impact nations. Not people, na-tions. The world is just getting a taste of his pow-er. Earl Woods on his son,

tipped to become one of

the greatest golfers of all

TODAY

Football

Marches not on pools coupons: 3.0 unless stated. Pleaser check with review before travelling to any outdoor figures the weekend.

GM VALICHALL CORFERENCE: Hayes v Dover, Kodemmisser v Northwort, Southbort v Bethr Telland v Stalybridge. Postsponedt: Fernborough v Almicham: Indian v Bromegroer, Welling v Rushcer, Vettiming v Horscambe.

ICLS LEAGUE Premate Division: Aylesbury v Surfice. The Seeham Wood v Yeading. Bounley v Rushcen League; Despanher v St. Alberts: Carshatton v Chertney; Dagarhem v St. Alberts: Carshatton v Chertney; Dagarhem; St. Haylordige. Postsponed: Vethalor Beringsmike v Waldon & Herstern; Bertnermsid v Herripton; Carney Island v Ubordige: Croydon v Bering: Mackenbead v Bogroor Regis: Mackeny v Leyton Pernant; Thorne v Whyselses; Tooting & Mitcham v Chestney; Worthing v Abrigdon Toon. Second Divisione: Bonstead v Hungertond; Bedford v Ware; Brachney v Leyton Pernant; Thorne v Pernant v Bistonos; Worthing v Abrigdon Toon. Second Divisione: Bonstead v Hungertond; Bedford v Ware; Brachney v Herripton; Chertney; Dorlang v Egnand Memopolaton Police v Hermel Herripsiad; Wennbey v Westinstone; Kingsbury v Homerund; Police v Herripton; Cappion v Least, Barlon v Westinstone; Kingsbury v Homerund; Northwood v East Thurney; Kingsbury v Homerund; Northwood v Least Thurney; Paudon v Acchigen Stanton v Memopolitic, Paudon v Perden, Carnon Lind v Bedford; Wellong v Roston Utt; Emley v Westinstone; Kingsbury v Homerund; Konthon V Berthon V Least, British v Reddiffer, Fason v Widerson; Herripton, V Alberton; Length v Essisted Town, Matthew Least Length v Bestone I Herripton; Length v Bestone I Herripto

nogate Toman v Nerkenharit, Legary Ezesakan v Brakation v Norkenharit, Pesatparande Geerna v Brakation Pork Avenual; Lincoin Und v Droylscieh. DR MARTERNS LEAGLIE Premier Divisions Ashood v Bakolic Gravesend v Casakay; Helesowen Town v Strangbourne; warg's Lynn v Wolvester. Merthyr Tydfi v Gressipy, Antreazon v Cheinstrok. Selabury v Cambridge Cry. Postponeda Burton v Newport AFC Sudbuy Town v Cheinstrok. Burton v Newport AFC Sudbuy Town v Cheinstrok. Selabury v Cambridge Cry. Postponeda Burton v Newport AFC Sudbuy Town v Dortchester. Bildland Division: Bilscho v Moor Green; Grantham v Stauthratige; Meston v Pager, Raunds v Evertant; Reddein v Hinckey Town Sheebred v Richwell; Solithal v Corby; Sudbud v Manuel; Surton vell; Solithal v Corby; Sudbud v Manuel; Surton vell; Solithal v Corby; Sudbud v Manuel; Surton Cotified v Dudley; VS Rugby v Tarmernh. Southern Divisione Besinky v St. Loonatis. Burton vell; Solithar v Derifort, Forsis Green v Microy. Mergase v Westerfood; Hart v Newport (Microy. Mergase v Westerfood; Hart v Feet. Mersons (D. 15); Fasersham v Contrant. League Cup second resumt: Certatival v Fundridge Wells; Westerfood; Hart v Feet. Mersons (D. 15); Fasersham v Contrant. League Cup second resumt: Certatival v Fundridge Wells; Cry. Wellsche Contrant v Contrant. League Cup second resumt: Certatival v Fundridge Wells; Town of the Contrant of Contrant Contrant. League V Mersons; Cargan v Register of Contrant Contrant. League V Mersons; Cargan v Register of Contrant Contrant. League V Long Burdon; Mirless Backscone v Eyeschury. Newport Pegerel v Battere; Northampon Spencer V Mersons; Steeler v Description Sector of Versons Sonting v Potton; Steeler & Delector League Potton; Steeler & Merson; Steeler v Enember Division; V Potton; Steeler & Delector v Enember Division. Cup second round: Orrey v St Ivez.
SCREWPEX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division:
Section v Theorem; Substant v Bristo Marcu Faint;
Section v Theorem; Substant v Bristo Marcu Faint;

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Bridport v Westbury; Breilingson v Chard; Elmore v Torringson; Odd Down v Barnstaple; Paulton v

Brichport v Westbury, Breilington v Chartt, Emore v Tomington; Odd Down v Barnssagler, Peutton v Chipperham: Taunton v Caine.

NORTHESIN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premaier Divisions Armatorpe v Glasshoughton; Armad v Liversadge, Astrigat v Priciennes, Betjor v North Fonthy, Brigg v Halliam; Melithy v Desen Town: Ossari Albian v Insclay, Fortiglack v Hustrale.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First, Division: Alberton Collines v Maine Road; Chaddenon v Rossendale; Derwan v Burscough; Easswood Hamby v Saitord, Glossop v Trafford; Holser Old Boys v Krissgrove; Nearthwid v Black-pool Rouers; Pervitti v Sushmal GAN; Prescot v St. Hebris, Challengs Cup second mund: Bootle v Neucaside Town; Mozsley v Citheroe.

TEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE; Lymington v Wimbone; Andover v Totton; BAT Sports v Aerostroutures; Bermetron Hearth v Brockephurs; Chistchurch v Cowes Sports; East Cowes v Petersfield; Essledji v Bumersouth FC; Portsmouth RN v Courron; Theothern v Whitchurch.

JEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Presider Division: Buy Town v Whoddridge; Neumenhed v Nederley; Stammartes v Hendels.

Netzerlake; Expresss MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Biokenty V Brodgord; Blossech v Peterscu, Verbord v Rollinger St. Mightels; Rustrall v Briggord; Blossech v Perstone; Nyper-sec. University v Rollinger St. Mightels; Rustrall.

WHISH, WAS STREETS MEDILAND ALLIANCE Beiened v Bridghorth, Blossoch v Pershore, kryperciely Victoria v Boldmerte St Michels Russhall
Ohmpic v Chaselbown, Stepenhill v Obburg, Stratford v Rocester, West Michands Polico v Hindikry Adhebr; Willenholl v Holesowen Harriers.
FEDERATION RESWERTY MORTHERN LEAGUR
First Divisions Chresto-le-Street v Gonserg,
Crook v Beddingson Terment: Quisborough v
Whichmern, Nustron v Belingson Systonics, RTM.
Noscascile v South Shielde; Seahorn Red Star v
Stockon; Shidon v Marpeth; Tow Law v Earnigson;
West Auckland v Durinari, Whithy v Dunston.
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGH AND LEAGUE; Cachmounder v Losseemouth; Cove Rengary v Kerti,
Desemonale v North Courtin; Forres Mechanics
v Raserburgs; For William v Buckle Thistie; Hurnly v Rother; Wick Agoldemy v Eigh,
LEAGUE OF WALES; Coney v Carmenthen;

lly v Rothes; Wick Acquerny v commarthen; LEAGUE OF WALES; Corney v Commarthen; Liesematical v Bergor Cay; Rhyl v Corneti's Quey, Postpoened: Ownstran v First, Corness Bay v Weishpood; Briton Ferry v Protrimator; Coersiso v Inter Caste-Tel Carolft, Berry v Coertesfor; Aberys-

v hater Casie-Tel Carolif, Barry v Castrianion, Adeystwyth v Ton Pentre.

WELSH CUP Fourth reamb Positioned: Meesing
Perk v Holywell.
Sauthooff Brash LEAghte Premier Divisions:
Colesians v Ands, Crusoders v Gensons; Gerstone
v Cathorwile: Portedown v Limited, First Divisions:
Bellyclore v Omegit: Bargor v Ballymene; Distillery
v Carrick: Newly v Lame.

HARRY LAGREN NATIONAL LEAGUE OF INELAND
Premier Divisions: Deny City v Limited Valega
Dubin 17.30). Positioned: Home Farm Eventon
v Sago Rovers.

SER CUT CHALLENGE CUP First round: May-field v Eccles (2.0): Modignen v Durham Univ (2.0): Outerw Ideal ABI (2.0): Ovenden v Hers-ingram (2.0): Saddleworth v Berbhorough (2.0): Wigan St. Judes v Wigan Rose Sr (2.0): Wigan St. Patholis v Hatton Simms Cross (2.30), First-round replay: Clayton v Normanton (2.0). Rugby Union 2.30 unless stated supervision with (3.0) (at Landowne Road, Dublin, State of Allehouse Road, Dublin, State of Allehouse

TOUR MATCH: Nesth v United States (at Alational Ground, Carolif).

HENSKEN CUP Sexil-final: Leicester v Toulouse (3,05).

Rugby League

COURAGE CLUBS CHARPHONSHEP Notional League Orac Both V Seacons C.15; West Hartispool v Bristol (3.0). Peetponed: Goucester v Northampson; Ornel v London Hish, National League Twee Peetponed: Rotherham v Richmont; Newcaste v Nationageson; Moseley v National League Tarect Hartisgram; Moseley v National League Tarect Hartisgram; Moseley v Cittors; London Southath v National League Tarect Hartisgram; Houseley v Cittors; London Vertical v Hartisgram; Moseley v National League Feet Hartis v Longon District, Walsali v Resign Park, Render v Santinger v Listors, Walsali v Resign Park, Render v Santinger; Marchala v Apparat, Warchester v Steffeld (2.30). Postponed: Stefes-on-Tiers v Santinger; Marchala v Apparat, Warchester v Steffeld (2.30). Postponed: Namesport, Lichfield v Winnington Park; Berningham and Solinuli v Herefort; Presson Grisshoppers v Sandal, National League Feet Seatts; Berning v North Walsham, Postponed: Pymouth v Cherbon Park; Newbury v Albeaux, High Wycombe v Camberley; Met Police v Chebraham; Heriley v Vesson-super Marc Bory Hill v Rosent, SMML EC CLIP Fifth ments Blackwood v Hinsum (2.30), WELSAI NATIONAL LEAGUE Firet Different Description of the Control of the

WB.SH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Post-

Police, Llandouery v Portypoot; Bonymaen's Abertiery, SRU TENNENTS CHAMPIONSHIP Premier League Division Three: Peebles v Musselburgh (2.0); Premier League Division Three: Peebles v Musselburgh (2.0); Steven's Mehrile FP v Kirnamock (2.0); Premier League Division Four: Constraints v Haddington (2.0); Hittlegs and Jordanhil v Haddington (2.0); Langholm v Glernothes (2.0). CLUB MINISTHES: Dundee HSFP v Kirnasldy (2.0); Glesgow Acadis v My (2.0); Hawket V West of Scallend (2.0); Hent's FP v Glesgow Southorn (2.0); Mehrige v Edinburgh Acadis (2.0); String County v Wateronters (2.0).

SCHOOLS INTERNACTIONAL: Scotterd Schools v Whiles Schools (2.0) (at Myreside, Edinburgh).

Hockey

DTZ BITERNATIONAL INDOOR TOURNAMENT: Centherne, Hud, MBM, New York, St Alberne, Swangee, Nidderminster & Stourport (9:30-7:30) (at Noderminster); Venne, Capetralities (Scotland), Barford Tiges, Old Loughtnama, Be-ston, East Ghnstead, Harborne & Fighrands (9:30-7:30) (at Worcester).

Basketball BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Converse Crystal Páloce v Leitester Riders (7.30); Derby Storm v Thames Valley Rigers (7.30); Nexossite Eagles v Exide Lon-don Towers (7.30); Ballari's Worthing Bears v Hernel & Wardord Royala (8.0).

NOT INDUCTIVELY
SUPPRILEASIZE: Besingstoke Bisson v Newcaede Staelens (7.30); Cerniff Devils v Ayr Scottish
Edgles (7.0); Norunghem Parithers v Nanchester Storm (6.40).
PHSDMER (LEASIZE: Kingston Hawke v Solihull
Bisson (6.30); Sough Into v Guidford Afor v Solihull
Bisson (6.30); Sough Into v Guidford Farines (6.30);
Swington Includes v Medisery Bearws (5.30).
NORTHERSH PREMIRE LEAGUE: Durnifres Vivings v
Elacitoum Howks (7.30); Fife Flyers v
Costeerage Aragins (7.0).

Other sports ATHLETICS: World cross-country interrepondi (Bellaci).

ICE SKATING: British Short-Track Speed-Skat-ing Championships (Guidford). SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria Chanty Challenga (Buttingham). TOMORROW

Football ICIS LEAGUE First Division: Martow v Aldersho (1.30). LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cable-Tel Carolif v Ban-gar City (3.0). HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND

Premier Division: Bray Wenderers v Cork Cn; (2.0); St Patrick's Athletic v Shelbourne (6.30). Rugby League FRENCLY MATCHES: Oldnern v Swinton (3.0). Whitehaven v Carlisle (3.30); Deasbury v Batley (2.0); Keighley v Huddensteld (3.0).

Rugby Union RELIGION CHAMPIONISHEP, Gas-gow'r Caledonia (Z.O) (at Ayd); Scothish Bonders y Earthurgh (3.0) (at Poynder Park, Kelso). HEMESHEN CUP Semi-finale Brue y Card (Z.30). HEMESHEN CUP Semi-finale Brue y Card (Z.0). EUROPEAN COMPENENCE Semi-finale: Bour-gon'r Nanconne (Z.O); Castras y Agen (2.0). COURAGE CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHEP National Loague One: Wasps y Harlequens (3.0) (at Lof-lus Road).

OTZ INTERNATIONAL INDOOR TOLERNAMENT: Cassification games followed by ting (3.20) (9.30-4.30) (at hidderminster); Cassification games tolered by Plate final (3.20) (9.30-4.30) (at hidderminster); in the case of the case of

WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE Pro WOMEN'S NATIONAL RIDGOR LENGUE Premier Deviator: Chelmstord, Hightown, Otton, Babarn Lacester, bowich, Storgh, Sutton Colefficir (9:20-4.0) (at Crystal Paloce). Flext birksion: Wimble-don, Wolne, Ealing, Centerbury, Bradinest, Doncasier, Sheffield (9:30-4.0) (at Loughborough Linkershy). Second Division: Bradford Swither-tonik, Liverpool, Alloridge, Portistrack, Trebrands, St Austell, Emburth, St Albans (9:30-4.0) (at East Grinslead HC).

Basketball BUDWESER LEAGUE: Chester Jess v Converse Crystal Palace (6.0); Exide London Towers v Play-boy TV Leopards (7.0).

ice bockey

Other sports

SUPERI EAGUE: Bradinal Boes y Nortingham Par-thess (6.30); Manchedor Storm v Ayr Scottich Ea-ges (6.0); Newcastle Cubits y Cardiff Devis (6.30); Sheffield Steelers v Basingtoka Bison (6.30). Shemed Steeles v Besinghe Broth (9.30). PREMIER LEAGUE: Guildord Rames v Tellord Tigers (B.O.); Medway Beans v Kingston Hawles (S.15); Solitudi Bitzas v Swindon IzeLords (7.0). NORTHERNI PREMIER LEAGUE: Backburn Hawles v File Flyers (S.O.); Murrayfield Royals v Castlereagh Knights (6.30); Whiteley Worklors v Durrifres Vikings (6.30).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victions Charity Challenge DARTS: WCC World Championship (Puriled, Es-so), Embassy World Championship (Primity Green, Suntay).

Paralympic trio win award for medal success

Salling

STUART ALEXANDER

Britain's trio of Paralympic gold medallists were given further recognition of a world-beating 1996 in London last night when Andy Cassell, Tony Downs and Kevin Curtis were voted BT Yachtsmen of the Year by the Yachting Journalists' Associa-

They had also been Euro-

pean champions before taking

gold at Lake Lanier in August and have proved almost invincible, with Cassell also holding a distinguished track record of sailing at all levels. Winners of the young sailor award were the Cuthbert twins,

Sally and Jessie. They won their second consecutive gold medals at the World Youth Championships in Newport, Rhode Island, in July, but for Sally this was a record-breaking fourth successive gold having won the two previous worlds with Storm Nuttall. Youth was also to the fore for

the global achievement award which went to the 18-year old Australian David Dicks, of Fremantle, who is the youngest recorded person to have sailed singlehanded non-stop round the world. In Hobart, Tasmania, the

Royal Navy crew skippered by Mickey Broughton won the King of the Derwent race for yachts which have finished both the Sydney to Hobart and the Melbourne to Hobart, in which Broughton's crew came seventh out of a ficet of 93.

Robinson signs up

Basketball

RICHARD TAYLOR

London Towers have signed the 6ft 9in American Keith Robinson to bolster their defence of the Budweiser League and 7-Up Trophy titles - and he could play himself into their European Cup line-up.

Robinson has played in Turkey, France and America's CBA and is on standby for his league debut this weekend away to Newcastle Eagles tonight and at home to London Leopards tomorrow, pending final registration details.

Leopards have won all three games between the clubs this season and cost Towers their National Cup title by beating them in the semi-finals. It is a run that Towers are desperate to break. Their general manager, Rick Taylor, said: "Last Morgan.

season we felt invincible and it's a great feeling for a team. Now Leopards feel they can't lose against us." Leopards already have a full quota of five Americans while

Robinson brings Towers' US battalion up to four, alongside

Danny Lewis, Tony Windless

and Joe Hooks. But their coach.

Kevin Cadle, can use only two of them when London resume their European Cup campaign at home to Saratov, of Russia. on Tuesday week. In the qualifying round they paired Lewis with the 6ft 9in Hooks, but they can change

their line-up by Monday's reg-istration deadline for the knockout stage. Sheffield Sharks, who meet Leopards in the National Cup final two weeks tomorrow, have replaced Mark Harvey with the

6ft 5in American forward Isaac

Trim Panzanini prevails

Skilng

Sabina Panzanini yesterday won her second victory of the World Cup season, and then attributed her success to weight loss.

Panzanini, who led an Italian Maribor in Slovenia yesterday, underwent treatment at a clinic in the summer after doctors problems were due to her being overweight. The 24-year-old City, Utah, in November, produced the quickest second run yesterday. vesterday to improve on a first-

leg fifth place for a winning aggregate time of 2min 34,74sec. The first-run leader Deborah Compagnoni, the Olympic and world champion, shared second place with Austria's Anita Wachter in 2:34.82. Compagnoni. who won her maiden slalom vicone-two in a giant slalom at tory in Semmering, Austria, last weekend, is one of the favourites for today's slalom here. Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg re-

told her that recurring back tained the lead in the overall World Cup standings with 618 points, ahead of the title-hold-Panzanini, who won in Park er Katja Seizinger of Germany on 534, despite finishing 25th

Results, Digest, page 23

WHERE THE GAMES WILL BE

WON AND LOST

WIII Greenwood v Thomas Castalgaède
Castalgaède was the midfield diamond of last year's Five
Nations, drop-kicking France to victory over England in

Paris and performing with verve in a losing cause against the Welsh in Cardiff. He has mastered the full rependire of attacking arts and his quicksilver running behind a

solid Toulouse pack gives the visitors a lethal edge. But Greenwood has the muscle to threaten his slighter

opponents. At 6ft 5in and 15st plus, the former Harlequin is the anticlote to Castaignede's magic and if he casts the right spells, Leicester will be half-way home.

An individual tussle of enomous importance, with

An individual tussle of enomous importance, with Leicester's in-form tight-head prop standing eyeball to eyeball with one of the most effective and certainly the most talented loose-heads in world rugby. Both men bring a thoroughly modern approach to front-row play with their expert ball-carrying and enthusiastic tackling. Today's match gives Garforth, unlucky not to have been capped, a chance to dispel doubts over the strength of his sequentaging. Califann is central to the Toulouse

his scrummaging. Califano is central to the Toulouse efforts in both tight and loose and if Garforth can hold him, he will make out a cast-iron case for Test selection.

Penaud has his detractors and it is fair to say that, in his

performances for France, he has flattered to deceive. As long ago as 1992 he looked capable of elevating French outside-half play to new heights but for every flash of genius, his forwards had to suffer a begin of wrong ontions.

wrong options. However, he runs the Brive show with

considerable flair and Davies will need to draw on

everything he has learned over the past decade to

handle him. It has not been the best of weeks for the

returning Messiah - he was left out of the Welsh side to

face the United States next week - but, as he showed in the quarter-final against Bath, there is no substitute for

Gregori Kacala v Gwyn Jones
A huge test for Jones, who has played just one competitive match since dislocating his shoulder in Australia last summer. The most intelligent ball-winner.

in Welsh rugby, he will encounter a severe physical examination in the shape of Kacala, a Polish

international who stands some four inches taller and

weighs in at well over 1.7st, two and a half stones

heavier than his opponent. Kacala has been the pick of

the Brive forwards during the Euro campaign, running

hard off the edges of ferocious driving mauls and putting in big open-field tackles by the dozen. If he is

allowed to run not, Cardiff will pay a heavy price.

Darron Garforth v Christian Califano

Alain Penaud v Jonathan Davies

Leicester to be tested by freeze and the French

Chris Hewett

looks forward to two Britain against France battles in this weekend's European Cup semi-finals

eicester have been in unbeatable form recently.

Their last defeat was at Wasps in September and they have scarcely looked in serious trouble since but they were tantalisingly close to finishing a poor second to the weather yesterday as the frost bit deep into the Welford Road turf. This afternoon's Heineken European Cup semi-final with Toulouse was still in the balance as night fell over the East Midlands.

No one could accuse the Tigers of taking the freeze-up ly-ing down. They covered their pitch with a vast protective balloon, wheeled in a convoy of powerful industrial heaters and recruited all the volunteers they could find to clear snow from the terracing. Unfortunately for them, a frustrating catalogue of accidents - split canvas, dodgy electrics and frozen diesel - left them working against the clock to stave off a bitter disappointment. A final decision was being made by the Scottish referee, Jim Fleming, this morning. There was better news from

south-west France, where Brive take on Cardiff in tomorrow's second semi-final. The hosts declared their Parc Municipal des Sports ground playable, so Hemi Taylor's Welshmen were flying out last night for their shot at a place in a second successive

European Cup final. Back at Welford Road, the Leicester chief executive Peter Wheeler was cursing his luck. "We've done everything humanly possible to get the game on but we haven't been helped by events conspiring against us," he said. "There was a delay in getting the protective balloon here from Upton Park. all injury scares to be no more Having erected it, we then than that Leicester's Stuart Having erected it, we then found that it came apart at the dead of night on Thursday and let in some of the frost.

Our main concern has to be respectively while the Frenchthe safety of the players. Both men named all three of their sides have some expensive merchandise to think about and the. N Tamack, Thomas Castaignède last thing anyone needs is to see people picking up injuries be-back division fairly bristling



Jonathan Davies provides the experience at outside-half for Cardiff but will Will Greenwood, the powerful Leicester centre, is in direct opposition to Brive that be enough to combat the flair of Alain Penaud?

with attacking brilliance.

The all-clear in the Leicester camp condemned Rory Underwood, England's recordbreaking wing, to an afternoon on the beach. Despite scoring two characteristically sharp tries against Harlequins last week the 85-cap veteran lost out to the exciting youngster, Leon Lloyd, Bob Dwyer, Leicester's Aus-

tralian coach, was in no doubt that Toulouse posed the most potent challenge to his side's

ing to be very tough. We underestimate them at our peril."

In November Italy were com-

fortably beaten 54-21 by England

at Twickenham but ran Scotland

close before a late try guaranteed

a 29-22 win for the home side.

a very fine all-round side," he said yesterday. "It would be a grave mistake for anyone to regard this simply as a match between a forward-based Leicester team and a backsbased Toulouse outfit. Both sides can play all around the paddock and we are going to have to take the right options at the right times to pull through."

His captain, the redoubtable Dean Richards, was in full agreement. He described the Heineken competition as a

"very definite step up from Courage League rugby", and added: "Having played in the matches against Pau, Llanelli and the quarter-final with Quins, I can say it is harder and faster than the contests we encounter domestically."

Photograph: Empics and France's midfield diamond, Thomas Castaignede

Not surprisingly, the Tigers' enthusiasm to play today bordered on desperation. With N Tamack and Castaignède seriously short of match fitness and the Toulouse camp as a whole less than enthusiastic

Bath and Saracens are making

every effort to beat the big

freeze and bring the former

South African captain, François

yesterday afternoon.

skating rink, Richards and his men were under the distinct impression that they fancied the game far more than their opponents - a crucial factor at this level of competition. That view was effectively borne out by Ntamack, the visiting captain, who said: "To play an English team in these conditions would double their home advantage."

about spending an afternoon

on the equivalent of a rutted

Meanwhile, Cardiff were making their trip to the Limou-

creasing confidence. Brive, who can rely on fanatical support, were mightily impressive in sweeping aside Harlequins during the pool stages but for all the brilliance of a threequarter line boasting the elegant fullback Sehastien Viars and the thrilling counter-attacking wing Sebastion Carrat, the suspicion is that the Frenchmen are vulnerable to a strong and determined forward performance.

sin region with an air of in-

Leicester (v Todiouse, today, 2.05): J Lley: S Hackney, S Potter, W Greanwood, L Lloyd: R Lliey, A Healey; G Rowntree, R Cocker®, D Garforth, M Johnson; M Poole, J Wells, N Back, D Richards (cept).

Dates, D Interarce (capt).
Toulouse: S Ougler; E NTamack (capt), M
Martang, T Castalogaide, D Beng; C Deyland,
J Cazabou; C Califano, P Soule, J-L Jordane,
H Mourn, F Belot, D Lacrotx, R Sonnes, S Dispagene. Referee: J Fleming (Scotland)

Review of Cardiff, tomorrow, 2.30): 5 Viars: G Fabre, C Lomaison, D Venditil, S Carrat; A Penaud (capt), P Carborneau; D Casade, J Travers, R Crespy, E Riegar, G Roos, L van der Linden, G Kacale, F Dubolsset. Cardiff: J Thomes; S Hill, M Hall, L Davies N Waller; J Davies, R Howley; A Lews, L Humphyleys, L'Mustoe, J Walkeford, D Jones H Taylor (capt), G Jones, E Lewis.



prospect of revenge as well as the sobering threat of defeat when they wind up their preparations for the Five Nations' Championship against Italy at Lansdowne Road today.

Keith Wood's men restored some of the pride lost in their humiliation, but he admits the humiliation by Western Samoa in November with a creditable them one for that defeat," the

Ireland will be spurred by the showing in a 22-12 defeat by Australia six weeks ago but a more significant result was the 22-12 defeat by Italy when the teams last met in Treviso in May

cause of dangerous conditions."

Toulouse found places to train

yesterday and happily declared

Potter, Rob Liley and John

Wells were cleared to play at

centre, outside-half and flanker

main concerns – Emile

Remarkably, Leicester and

Wood avoided that particular result still rankles. "We owe

Harlequins hooker said. "It's go-

Unlike five of today's team,

Before those two away matches the Italians went close to upsetting Wales in Rome and Australia in Padua. "They were a little bit intimidated when they played Eng-

> well against Australia and Scotland," Wood said. "Word is going round that they would not be fit enough to take part in an expanded Five Nations but I don't agree. There is a fine line between the standards in Italy and those in England, Scot-land, Ireland and Wales."

land, but they performed very

Ireland have a definite advantage in the preparations for the game. While the Italians were left freezing in Wales, their

Peter Evison became the first

player to reach the semi-finals of the World Championship at

Purfleet, Essex, yesterday but

Evison beat Jamie Harvey

5-3 after two hours and nine

minutes and, although he con-

sistently outscored his oppo-

nent, was in dire trouble when

ble first, 32-year-old Evison,

from Middlesex, had 66 at-

tempts at doubles but missed 46

of them an incredible propor-

tion for such a fine player.

Repeatedly reaching a dou-

it came to hitting doubles.

did it the hard way.

warm-up matches with Llanelli and Caerphilly falling victim to the weather, the Irish squad were in the Algarve for four days

The break enabled Leicester's back-row forward Eric Miller, the only new cap in the Ireland

the only new cap for Italy, but the return of Stefano Bordon enables the winger Paolo Vaccari to resume his normal position. to resume his normal position.

IRELAND (v Italy, Lansdown Road, today,
3.0): C O'Shea (London Irsh): J Popping (Baly,
mena). J Sell Nicothampson), M McCall (Dungamon), D Crothy (Garyowen): M Poppingerell
Niescastel, K Wood (Harleques, capt), P Musilace (Saracens), 4 Fulction (London Irsh), J
Davidson (London Irsh), D Corkery (Bristol),
E Miller (Locaster), A Foley (Shannon, Replacements: D Humphreys (London Irsh), N
Hogan (Termus College), D McStride (Maone), P Johns (Saracens), P Flavin (Blackrock
College), A Clarke (Northempton).

TMALY: J Pertile; P Vaccan, A Storca, S Sordon,

warm-weather training.

side, to shake off a flu bug. Centre Alessandro Stoica is

Collegia, A. Clarke (Northempton), Frienth (Blackmol Collegia), A. Clarke (Northempton), ITALY: J. Pertile; P. Vaocan, A. Stoca, S. Bordon, Marcello Cuttate; D. Dorweguez, A. Trancor: Messimo Cuttata (capt), C. Chandi, F. Propertz, W. Cristofoletto, G. Croc., J. Gardner, A. Scorlon, D. Arancio, Replacements: A. Castellan, F. Mazzarol, G. Guidi, C. Checonato, N. Mazzucano, A. Moscardi, Reference; R. Dawes, (Wales).

Evison wins despite double trouble

doubles in only 25 attempts and

this finishing consistency en-

But Evison won the sixth set

3-0, had a 118 check-out to

clinch the seventh set 3-2 then,

after the score had reached

2-2 in legs in the eighth set, the

Middlesex man had another

looked certain to win com-

fortably but missed five suc-

cessive match darts at double

20 before finally winning the leg

and the match at his sixth at-

In the vital fifth leg, Evison

hout of double trouble.

abled the Scotsman to lead

Evison 3-2.

Harvey, in contrast, scored 16

know they are working flat out so let's hope those efforts get their reward." The First Division's top

"If there is the slightest

chance of it being on, then we

will be in Bath this evening,"

Mike Scott, the Saracens team

manager, said yesterday.
"We don't want a fixture

pile-up, and neither do Bath. I

match is one of three that have so far survived bitter weather conditions. Gloucester's home

win the title for the third suc-

cessive year, surprisingly lost

the opening set of his quarter-final 3-1 to the 1983 Embassy

world champion. Keith Deller

But he then reeled off five suc-

cessive sets to beat his rival

The 36-year-old Stoke play-

per dart, fully justifying his

er had nine 180s, finished in su-

perb fashion and averaged over

1-10 odds to win this particular

The Embassy World Darts Championship begins at the Lakeside Country Club, Frim-

ley Green, today, with the 40-

wipt. year-old Martin Adams aiming
Phil Taylor, the favourite to to justify his top seeding.

game against Northampton fell victim to the frost and Northampton declined to try again on Sunday.

Pienaar's debut relies on Bath's hot air

Orrell's match against Lon-Pienaar, out of cold storage don Irish, one of their main rel-Bath have blasted the Recegation rivals, was called off on reation Ground with 10 indus-Thursday but West Hartlepool trial hot-air blowers, and plans report no problems at Brierton are in place for an all-night shift Lane for Bristol's visit. The by club staff and volunteers. The derby between Wasps and Harlequins at Loftus Road pitch was passed by Ed Morrison's preliminary inspection

looks a safe bet for tomorrow. Pienaar, a £400,000 signing from Transvaal, will line up alongside fellow high-profile recruits Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sella if the game at

Bath goes ahead. The home side welcome back Phil de Glanville after injury but their Scottish Banker, Eric Peters, has withdrawn through ankle trouble and Richard

Webster deputises. Bristol have Robert Jones on board for their trip to the north east, and he is relishing his first game since undergoing back surgery. "Everything went well when I played in a second team game last weekend. There wasn't one instance of a twinge or anything," he said.

Bristol will be without the England lock, Simon Shaw, who has a slight back niggle and he will be replaced by Phil Adams.

West award a league debut to Liam Botham, son of Ian, who has shaken off flu, but their player-coach, Mark Ring, remains untit after injury.

Wasps will replace Leicester as league leaders if they beat Quins, and effectively end the title prospects of their arch rivals. Quins make several changes after being beaten by Leicester last week. The French back Thierry Lacroix, signed for £250,000, makes his outside-half debut, with Robbie Paul, Glyn Llewellyn and Rory Jenkins also drafted in.

12Ib forward who has made such an impact since joining Bath, will captain the United States when they make a belated start to their Wales tour in today's match against Neath at Cardiff Arms Park.

Dan Lyle, the 6ft 5in and 17st

Lyle, who will captain the Eagles from the back row, is joined by six other Britishbased players as the Americans begin the build-up to the Test against Wales next Saturday.

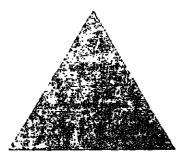
The centre Geraint Evans returns to the Neath side baving been out of action since fracturing his jaw during the game against Cardiff in early November.

INOVETIDET:

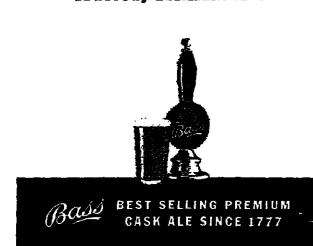
UNITED STATES (v Neath, Cardiff Arms Park, today): C Morrow (Gentlemen of Aspert); V Asikosi (Yarkees), B Wilseepa (Sestile), M Scharrenborg (Residing), B Hightower (Gentlemen of Aspert); M Alexander (Derner Barbarars), A Bachelet (Reading); C Lippert (Rugby), T Billiups (Reading), B LeGlerc (Gentlemen of Aspert), L Gross (Harleytins), A Parker (Gentlemen of Aspert), D Lyle (Bath), J Williamson (Belmont Shore), R Lambong



A good idea.



A bloody brilliant idea.



Eager Ebdon back in the frame game

Snooker

Rose, UN commander in Bosnia, 57: 1855; Siella Dorothea Gibbons, poet Sargenr , spin.

Darts

Peter Ebdon recorded his second victory over Ken Doberty in less than a week in Birmingham yesterday as he took another step towards erasing the memory of his pre-Christmas

slump.
The world No 3 Ebdon, beaten in four successive matches at the end of 1996, advanced to the semi-finals of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge by beating Ken Doherty 5-2. It was another encouraging show from

the Londoner, who boosted his flagging confidence last weekend by defeating John Parrott and Doherty in the Dr Martens

European League. I don't want to make a habit of losing early on but it Ebdon said. "Those defeats have given me a new lease of life in terms of dedication and commitment. I suppose it was the short, sharp shock treatment but they certainly made me extremely annoyed. Perhaps it's unfair to say I was getting complacent but I now realise I

wasn't working as hard as I should have." Ebdon will face Parrott or the

defending champion, Ronnie O'Sullivan, in today's semi-fi-

Alan McManus edged out fellow Scot John Higgins to book his place in the last four. McManus, previously beaten on six successive occasions by his World Cup-winning team-mate, avoided a seventh defeat as he turned a 4-2 deficit into a 5-4 victory after Higgins stalled on the brink of victory.

Midlands host world-class competition

Hockey

BILL COLWILL

Britain's most ambitious international indoor tournament takes place this weekend in the Midlands with the staging of the DTZ international tournament

at Kiddetminster and Worcester. With play in four pools of four teams, two at each centre, the competition has drawn teams from New York, Canberra and Vienna. British opposition is led by Capercaillies, the Scottish national squad, and Old Lough-

tonians, the English champions. Southgate and Reading, third and fourth in the National League, have strong squads in here as well as in Barcelona for the annual Los Reyes tournament, which is celebrating its centenary. The county champions, Surrey, with 10 players from the Surbiton club, and

Grange, of Scotland, will also be at the Polo club. Soma Singh, who has been on the injury list since returning from the Atlanta Olympics, makes a comeback for Southgate but they will be missing their player-coach, James Duthie (dislocated shoulder), and the Great Britain international Rowan Davis (on holiday).

Auriol promotes his all-African adventure

Rallying **COLIN POND**

reports from Dakar

The Dakar Rally, which traditionally starts in Paris, sets out today as an all-African affair for the first time.

"I wanted to give everyone back the chance to dream," the organiser and former winner, Hubert Auriol, said in Dakar of his decision to limit the most popular category to cars built by amateurs and two-wheel-drive

Auriol has introduced new regulations restricting both car and wheel size and assistance during the rally, while increasing security. More than 30 people - including competitors and spectators - have been killed during the 19 years of the an-nual desert classic.

The rally, which starts and finishes here in the Senegalese capital, also crosses Mali and Mauritania as well as returning to Niger, which was excluded in recent years for security reasons.

It ends in Dakar on 19 January. This itinerary is a way of saying that Africa made the Dakar [race] and the Dakar belongs to Africa," Auriol said.

One hundred cars, 128 motorbikes - including the four-

times winner Stéphane Peterhansel, and 55 trucks will be at

the start. The Belgian veteran Jacky icks, who won the fifth Paris-Dakar in 1983, is competing again, as are Toyota, although their Japanese rivals Mitsubishi are the favourites. The successful French teams Citroën and Peugeot are absentees.

Mitsubishi won back-to-back rallies in 1992, with Anriol, and in 1993 with his fellow Frenchman Bruno Saby to provide a break in the Peugeot and Citroën dominance over the last

decade.
"With the big factories, the Dakar became unmanageable. Auriol said. "Two years ago, at the finish, I said: This is crazy It all had to be changed. From

now, we control the course."
Henri Pescarolo, another major competitor in the earlier days of the rally under its founder Thierry Sabine (who was killed in a helicopter accident 10 years ago) said: "I'm making my return to the Dakar because of the changes. I didn't enjoy taking part any longer. It had become a big Monte Carlo rally. I'm here as an amateur. I bought a T3 from Toyota and start almost without assistance, but we won't be far

from the front."

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1. Salation

. . . يني ويوال ا faltering freeze

choice, and to the stem. A new funding or schools would be Lanting wer tout ing spending, heading ents to have to take mselves to pay for materials, he will say Hunkett will also Labour proposals in ery funds in train in computer stells.

• Start to the Old year

Richard Edmondson on a trainer whose ambitions have been knocked off course

As the big freeze continues, a worrying thought is beginning to set in the mind of Jim Old, the trainer of Collier Bay, It may well be that when the Champion Hurdler returns to a racecourse after his greatest hour, he will see some rather familiar faces peering over the running rail in his direction, the very same cold-bleached features that watched him sprint up the Prestbury Park hill last March.

Collier Bay has been allowed to bask in the warmth of ultimate success for some time now, but the elements are doing him no favours in retaining his crown. "I've been worrying about a race for him for quite a time now because the oppor-tunities are so restricted." Old said yesterday. "From the point of view of this horse, it wouldn't necessarily worry me going to the Festival without a run. It wouldn't be ideal but I could do it. He's won first time out be-

As the options diminish, it could be that Collier Bay will return for the Leopardstown race he won in his build-up last year. "We might have to go to Ireland [for the Europe Champion Hurdle on 19 January], but if it's frozen up here two days before, then we ain't going there either," the trainer said.

While the weather gets some of the blame for Collier Bay's inactivity, it appears there is another, greater devil. Old gets rather unseasonal when it comes round to the topic of organising the race calendar, and it may be safe to assume that he did not send David Oldrey, the chairman of race planning, a Yuletide chocolate log, rather that he would like to tap him over the head with the natural equivalent. Over the last two years they have taken seven Champion Hurdle-type trial races away and replaced them with handicaps," Old said. "They are cater-

ing for mediocrity.
The avowed intention seems to be that Alderbrook and Collier Bay, as the two main protagonists, should meet head-tohead three times this season. They want to restrict the opportunities to such an extent that we have to clash on those occasions."

Collier Bay's misfortune is not a phenomenon unheard of at Upper Herdswick Farm in Wiltshire. If something bad can happen to Jim Old, it usually does. It would be easy to see him as Frank Spencer with horses and he does engender the same sort of general affection - but he has also posted a level of



The trainer's life could be titled by the book Kingsley Amis did not write, "Unlucky Jim".

"I've always been the same, and it's been worse than it is now," he said. "I've always been known as unlucky Jim, particularly at school. If anything happened, it always happened to me, especially when it came to getting caught."

James Andrew Bertram Old's racing gamut started when he went from the charmed newcomer of training to leper, in the space of the three years in great professional achievement. which virus came to visit at his

south Bristol yard and then horses and injuring another six. shop, counting coppers out of failed to check out. A selection of elderly owners had the ill grace to die on him during the same period. "They were three very bad years, and when that happens people start to lose their confidence in droves," he

each, so it starts adding up." Now based in Wiltshire, Old suffered the sort of calamity at season's outset that might have been of some assistance at his previous location. Fire swept through his yard, killing four

said. "I also lost four terrific

owners. They had four horses

The trainer's office was also accounted for and he now operates from a Portakabin.

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In between, though, has been the great glory of Champion Hurdle afternoon 1996, when the hand of Old was a very popular meeting point. That day his hair, if not dishevelled, was hardly shevelled either, and he transported a mac that Mrs Columbo would have thrown out. He looked a quintessential part of racing, just like the bloke you have always seen through the mists of the betting

a plastic bag. It is this vulnerability (and Old is the most self-deprecating of figures, calling himself the sort of names you rarely hear at evensong) that makes the trainer such a well-liked figure. Collier Bay may not be seen for a while yet, but a reliable forecast is for cigarettes and a tumbler to be evidenced in Jim Old's fingers. "I thought about giving up smoking and whisky for New Year but I couldn't," he said. "They are essential to the trainer's survival kit."

Francome still on top

GREG WOOD

The racegoers may be freezing on the terraces at Lingfield this afternoon, but there will surely be a warm glow emerging from the commentary position of Channel 4 television, Having been widely praised by the bet-ting industry for taking the view that even all-weather racing is better than no racing at all, Channel 4's team has also received an overwhelming vote of confidence from the people who really matter to them, the

arrochair punters of Britain. In a postal poll of Sporting Life readers, the commercial station's racing coverage was pre-ferred to that offered by the BBC by a majority of more than three to one, though it should

17 Peter Scudan

18 Jimmy Lindley (BBC) .

Survey conducted among 974

RATINGS FOR THE TV PRESENTERS John Francome (C4) Alastair Down (C4) Simon Holt (C4) 3= J A McGrath (BBC) 3= Jim McGrath (C4) 6 Peter O'Sullevan (BBC) . 7 Graham Goode (C4) 8 Brough Scott (C4) .. 9 Jonathan Powell (880) 10= Lealey Graham (C4) 10= Lord Calcsey (C4) 12 Chare Balding (BBC) ... 13= John McCrinck (C4) 13= Julian Wilson (BBC) 15 Derek Thompson (C4) 16 Richard Pitman (BBC)

be pointed out that satellite stations (Sky's excellent Winning Post covering evening meetings in the summer, and the dedicated Racing Channel) were not included. A total of 974 Life readers responded, an impressive sample given that each and every one is likely to be a committed follower of racing. Channel 4's coverage was preferred by 76.5 per cent of respondents, while only 21 per cent opt-ed for the BBC and 2.5 per cent did not express a preference.

When the poll turned to individuals, one name was clear of the field, much as he was during his career on the track. John Francome came top of a list of 19 racing presenters, with a maximum rating of nine from 343 voters, and a zero rating from just eight. The Life's points system gave him an overall score of 83 per cent, eight per cent clear of Alastair Down, his Channel 4 colleague and also a familar name to Life readers. J A McGrath, heir-apparent to Peter O'Sullevan as the BBC's chief commentator. was Auntie's leading scorer in joint-third, a position he shared with two more members of the Channel 4 team, Simon Holt and Jim McGrath.

At the other end of the table, BBC presenters filled the bottom four places, while there was also evidence that a common complaint about Channel 4's John McCririck - "he's irritating but the punters love him" -is only half right (the first half, to be precise). Although 236 voters scored McCririck highly, 147 gave him no points at all, and in the popularity poll he was down the field in 13th place.



LINGFIELD LAS: GENERAL HAVEN has performed creditably on his last two outings, both at this track, and is one of the few runners in the field that is proven at this trip. The 5-1 on offer with the race sponso looks decent value.

2.15: MYSTERY MATTHIAS just failed to catch Halbert over this course and distance last time, but the latter had the run of the race that day and the selection is marsinally better in at the weights now.

RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP:** General Haven (Lingfield 1.45) NB: Apollo Red (Lingfield 12.45)

2.45: COUNTLESS TIMES met a smart performer in Hever Golf Lover bere on Tuesday and can strike while clearly in form.

3.15: SUPERBELLE steps up in trip but has been performing consistently at seven forlongs and was running on strongly at the end of a mile event last time.

3.45: BARGASH showed improved form on his Equitrack de-but last time and looks leniently handicapped here,

Faltering freeze

Hopes are high that Musselburgh will today stage the first racing on turf for over a week. There is a precautionary inspection at 7.30am, but only a deterioration in the weather will prevent the card taking place.

> RESULTS SOUTHWELL

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SOUTHWELL

1.00: 1. JOSEPH'S WINE LABOR Greeness
7-1: 2. Spennear's Revenigle 8-1; 3. Bernard
Seven 5-1. 13 ran. 1.8 fav Absolute Magc. 3, 1%, (D Ncholis, Thirsi), Totas: 59-20;
£2.60, £1.10, £2.50, DF: £2.01, CSF:
£58.65, Thio: £25.50, NR: Credit Call,
1-30: 1. DOMBNO FLYER (Nr Crew Mison)
6-1: 2. Dessent Inveder 10-1; 3. Casts Rich
tosa 7-1, 15 ran. 3-1 fav Krigstup Boy. 3,
1%, (Mrs A Swinbark, Richmond). Totas
£7.60: £3.20, £3.30, £2.00, DF: £55.10,
CSF: £65.14. Totast: £387.56, Tiric: £122.60,
2.00: 1. PARKULE'S (Drowne) 3-1 fav; 2.
2.00: 1. PARKULE'S (Drowne) 3-1 fav; 2.
2.01: 1. PARKULE'S (Drowne) 3-1 fav; 2.
2.02: 1. PARKULE'S (Drowne) 3-1 fav; 2.
2.03: 1. BRUDLE RANNASY (Risport) 10-1;
2. Sloenerungo 6-1; 3. Enchanding Eve 8-1.
8 ran. 2-1 fav Jay-Ove-Two. 2, 4. U Eyre.
1 fav Calder King (Shi), 1, %, (M Carnecho, Mistron). Totas: £7.00; £2.00, £1.20,
£1.5 20.
2 and 4 PET EUPRESS (Chamod) 16-1;

£125.20.
3.30:1 PST DUPRESS (I. Chamock) 16-1;
2. Pattos 13-8 tav. 3. Hever Golf Dencer
6-1. 8 ras. /s. 5. (P. Hasian, Middelran).
Totac £20.80; £4.80; £1.10; £1.10. DF: £48.20. CSF: £42.05. Treast £159.40.

Seekpot: not won toool of £4,462.74 carried forward to Lingfield today). Placepot: £119.80. Quadpot: £18.40. Mace 6: £353.89. Place 5: £124.39.



INGFIELD

12.45 Dark Menace 1.15 Soldier Cove **1.45 General Haven** HYPERION 2.15 Mystery Matthias (nb) 2.45 Countless Times 3.15 Superbelle 3.45 BARGASH (nan)

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 51 - outside: remainder - inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: low in sprints.

Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of town on BEO28. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: SP. CAR PARE: Club \$3; remainder free.

**ELEADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: G L Moore — 47 winners from 400 runners gives a success ratio of 11.8% and a loss to a 51 level stake of \$17.61; A Moore — 46 winners, 447 runners, 10.3%, -\$40.75; M Johnston — 42 winners, 250 runners, 16.6%, -\$29.72; R O'Sullivan — 41 winners, 304 runners, 13.5%, -\$62.22

**ERADING JOCKEYS: L Dettori — 83 winners, 336 rides, 24.7%, +\$12.28; J Weaver — 73 winners, 335 rides, 20.6%, +\$4.15; R Cockrane — 64 winners, 363 rides, 17.6%, +\$29.20; T Quinn — 48 winners, 305 rides, 15.7%, -\$42.76.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Old Bush Wing (visored) (1.15); Alimerjam (3.15).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Misser Raider (2.15) won here on Tuesday.
LONG-DISTANCE ROUNEES: Calchon (2.45) has been sent 270 miles by C Fairburs from Middlehum, N Yorks; Love Me Do (3.15) sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middlehum; (2.45) sent 270 miles by P Ha dieham; Enchantica (2.45) sent 268 miles by J Berry from Cockerham, Lanes: Krystal Dav-ey (2.45) sent 264 miles by T D Barron from Maunby, N Yorks.

		2.15	LADBROKE ON-COURSE BETTING SHOP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,800 added 6f	HANDICA
	1	000162-	SHASHI (3) (D) (Mrs Anna L Sanders) Par Mischell 5 10 0	R Lappin '
	2.	043550-	ENVOCATION (30) (CD) (R Kleman) A Moore 10 9 13	A Cizak i
١	3	142020-	MELERCIAN REPURS (7) (D) (Maletran Fig.) M Charmon 49 11	Candy Morris
Į	4	000350-	OUR SHADEE (USA) (15) (CD) (K boy) K boy 7 9 8	C Scally 6
١	5	50002-3	GLIA HIGH (3) (C) (EF) (Ladyswood Pacing Club) M Meade 4 9 7	D Sweeney (5)
i	6	320003-	HOH MAJESTIC (35) (Mrs Roma Hague) Romatd Thompson 4 9 5	J Weaver 3
Ì	7	000030-	COLSTON-C (4) (D) (P D Evens) P Evens 5 9 5	G Carter 1
ı	я		ALLIEZ (7) (D) (Risestram And Gould Parmersho) Mass Cay Kellenay 7 9 3	

8 150025- ALLAC (7) (Dr.) (Bachtern And Gould Partnershy) Mass Say Kellewisy 7 9 3 ... 5 Sanders 10 9 00,0009- MORLANG (125) (Dr.) Serbessen K. Curnington-Boun 7 8 8... C. Manday 9 10 000- VERNIESE DANCER (75) (Super Trouper Partnershy) R. Wilkerns 4 7 13... M. Bakel (3) 4 11 500000- BEDMAN WOLF (36) (Mrs 1 P Deutchard) B Lieuselyn 4 7 10... G. Bardwell 1 — 11. declared — 4 Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicup weight: Indian Wolf 7st Sib.

BETTINE: 7-2 Shaeki, 4-1 Gi La High, 5-1 Aljaz, 6-1 Colston-C, 3-1 Milletrian Referb, Invocation, Our Shaden. 1-1 others: 1996: Myjnka 6 8 12 P McCabe 11-2 (J O'Donoghue) 12 mn

1998: Mighila 6 8 12 P McCabe 11-2 (J O'Donghue) 12 mn
FORMI GUIDE

BI LA HIBH was well backed at Southwell on Wednesday and attempted to make all. She was clear emissing the straight bur, over their more testing six, just fasted to last home, finishing third to Ballard Lady. Her previous run at that course had seen her run an excellent neck second to Chadwell Hall, with Shashi sixth of 16, in a claimer. G La high won on this course (Sh late in 1995 and, from a good draw and off the same mark as last time, has a clear chance. Shashi had won at Southwell before finishing behind the selection and was second to Marjone Rose at Wolverhampton last time, but G La High is fancied to hold her ost by worse terms for about three lengths. A winning turn may not be far away for three action, atthough he could finish only seventh behind Shadi when favourite here lost time. Aljex finished a length and a quarter in front of Hola Majestic when they filled the places in Nepler Star's Wolverhampton are at the end of October. That was Hoh Majestic's first run for Ronald Thompson and, with Jeson Wesser booked and on 4lb better terms. he is fancied to come out on top now. Collation-C makes little appeal on Tuesday's running behind Mister Rader, while Our Shadoe appears to have fost his form. Selections G I LA HiGH

12.45 (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,525 added 7f

FORM GUIDE

PORM GUIDE

Dank Menance felled by a head to get back up against Greatest here last month and finished eight lengths clear of MAWAR STORMI, who was a running-on third. Dank Menance has every chance on that form but Hawari Storm is chosen to come out on top with an 8th pull. The nine-year-old has dropped to a very lenient ment, now – 13th lower than when gaining his last win over course and distance in December 1995. Hewall Storm had twost and creditably here in November to show that he was back to form and he will have an excellent chance if able to hold a more prominent early position. The har-track-seeking Apolito Red is in the form of his life. He led throughout when beating Star Talent two and a half lengths last time and should again go well off a 6th higher mark. Never Think Twice, numer-up to Shrafi and Speedy Classic on his last two runs, finished some four and a half lengths behind the selection in Twin Creek's November race here and reopposes or the same terms. Royal Caritton has shown improved form since joining Gay Moore, easily winning a mile malden last time. He is 9th higher than when third to Shranghel Lil here previously, though, malden last time. He is 9th higher than when third to Shranghel Lil here previously, though, seed the bifinger back on before he wins again.

Selection: HAWAII STORM many need the bifinger back on before he wins again.

1.15 LADBROKE APPRENTICES CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f

1998: Tartari Gent 5 9 0) Destric 10-11 (4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	
1.45 LADBROKE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added	C4
1 463501- STEAMROLLER STANKY (51) (CD) (R M Que) C Quer 4 9 12	G Center 2
	I Short B
5 215160. GLOW PUREL CAS (MOUSING House Partieship) J Pearce 4 9 4	0 (1990) اللـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
7 144022- GENERAL PARES (283) (CD) (Top Class Racing) S Dow 6 9 0	A DBBy (6) /
7 14/072-1 NO SPECHES (283) (CD) (Top Class Rading 5 toke 8 9 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	.0 Bardwell 1
10 040400 BATTON - 10 declared - 11-2 Glow Forum, 7-1	Midda's Star,

SETTIMES 3-1 SUBMERIOR STEMPY, 7-2 Text, 5-3 Centeral Hovers, 11-2 Size 10-1 Out On A Promise, No Specules, 12-1 Set The Fashina, 25-1 A Mile 1996: Ballynakely 4 7 13 T Astricy 100-30 (R Aleburst) 10 can

FORM GLIDE

NO SPEECHES has not been out since March, when he was third to Errant over 10 furlongs having beaten Severusens Lucky a length over the course and distance to furlongs having beaten Severusens Lucky a length over the course and distance to furlongs having beaten Severusens to stand the double here on Thursday, Misty Cay scoring after seven weeks off and Tawafek on his first start for the stable having been absent since
May, so there is every chance No Speechas will be fit enough. No Speeches is on a fair
mark and represents each way value in a tricky race. Steamholler Stanbesh, who was tried
in a Group Two in France during the summer, is a danger having won what looked a good
conditions race last time, but it has not worked out all that well and there are doubts that
he can reproduce the form in a handicap. Nilidar's Starb eart Tart time-quarters of a length
at Wolverhampton last time and reopposes 2b worse. Nikita's Star is at his best on Fibresand, though, so Tart, who was having her first run for Jeif Pearce then, could overturn placings, General Haven, besten seven lengths by Filial and time lengths by Mujtahida when
second on his last two starts here, may be in the handicapper's gip. A bigger threat can
be posed by Glow Forum. She disappointed last time at Wolverhampton but had won five
of her previous rine races in 1966 and goes restly well on the all-weather. Out On A Promise
won over hurdles at Utionster last month.

LADBROKE ON-COURSE BETTING SHOP HANDI-CAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,800 added 6f popher Lanei R O'Sullivan 587.... TACHYCARDIA (2) (D) (Cite

- 11 nectares BETTING: 9-4 Mister Raider, 5-2 Sharp kap, 5-1 Mystery Matthias, 6-1 Barbason, 8-1 Hailbert, 101 Sauzzolom, 18-1 others
1996: see division one

FORM QUIDE SHARP IMP has come back well from a three-month break and deserves to win this. He finsihed last in third to Bold Effort last month, beaten about a length and a half, and improved a place when going down a length and a quarter to Ultra Beet on Thursday. That latest run w: i particularly creditable (Tachycardia was well beaten) and he should not need to improve to take this. Misster Reider won a five-furiong handicap on Tuesday by three-quarters of a length from Shali but has much more on his plate with a 7th penalty. Wall-best explored a length energy when making all five a need ball-furth exposure from quarters of a length from small out his much more on his beate while a not person, heart ended a long losing sequence when making all for a game half-length success from Mystery Matthias, with Samsolous under two lengths further back in fourth and Tachycardio seventh, but the form is not working out well Mystery Matthias was well beaten over seven furforigs last time). Barbason is well handicapped and in good heart but needs a Selection State? IMP IMP

2	2.45	LADBROKE TELEBETTING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 5f
1		MIGHTENGALE SONG (107) (Stephen Baylessi M Meade 9 7
2	350154-	HEAVENLY WASS (4) (CD) (Trever Machelli J Brodger 9 5
3	265650-	TEAR WHETE (22) (D) (A W Lawson & Co (1st) T Miles 9 0
4		IMPERIAL GARDEN (58) (D) (D P Ruttledge) P Hastern 9 0
5		ENCHANTICA (38) (Mrs J M Berry) J Berry 8 9
6		CALCHOU (32) (D) (W J Dobson) C Fashurst 8 9 R Leppin 1
7		KRYSTAL DAVEY (8) (Calded Nurseus Partnesho) T D Barron 8 7,
8		COUNTLESS TIMES (4) (The Pn Way Recorg Partnership) W Mur B 4

- 8 declared - NS: 3-1 Enchantica, 7-2 Mightingule Song, 4-1 Counties Ti mity Miss, 8-1 Tear White, 10-1 Krystal Desey, 12-1 Calchon ; Rystal Max 3 9 3 Kimberley Hart 11-8 (T D Barron) 4 ran

1996: Rystal Max 3 9 3 Kimberley Hart 11-8 (T D Barron) 4 ran

KRYSTAL DAVIEY has shown enough from three starts to suggest he can go close in his first handicap. He was having his first run since June when a never-nearer severith to Jay-Cee-Two on his all-weather debut at 5 Southwell in November, knoking a length and a had in front of Enchanticae, whom he meets 7th better. Krystal Davey was well beaten at Wolverhampton eight days ago but is capable of better than he showed there. Enchantica is speedly but seems difficult to vin with. She finished just a head befund tasperal Garden when they were second and third to Fearless Cavalier at Musselburgh in November and has a 13b pull. Impenal Garden's higher mark is a result of his win on the Wolverhampton Floresand in August and he can still go well with Pat Haslem back amongst the winners. Countiess Times was staying on well when four lengths second to Hever Golf Lover on Tuesday and has every chance off a 2th lower mark than when third to Island Prince over six furforgs the time before ~ Heavenly Miles a very disappointing fifth. Heavenly Miles did better in fourth to Just Lou last time. Nightdingste Song is consistent but lacks a recent run and must carry top welght.

3.15 LADBROKE MEDIAN AUCTION MADEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 1m 2f J (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 1m 2F

AROUND PRIE ALLES (15) (Dir Humphreys Lind T Mile 9 0

PRIPICH NOSS (7) (7 S M Cummigrami M Chernon 9 0

LEG BEFORLIN (187) (Web) J Smith 1. Montage Hall 9 0

LOVE ME DO (USA) (75) (M Doyle) M Johnson 9 0

MOGIL (24) (The Sher and Bus House Facing Chai) N Gallem 9 0

MU LEGAL BEGLE (73) (General J Freyer's 1 File 9 0

AURERIAAI (29) (D Powel') J White 8 9

LOCKHASS (15) (Mac) Dinteron's Woods 8 9 00 BUZZEY BABE (24) IP Carterl A FOSEr is 3-6033- LOCHLASS (15) 94-00 Johnson's Woods 8 9-3223- SUPERBULE (21) IN S Yong M Jans 8 9-6000- TEROL'S TREASURE (15) IK T Non'y K Noy 8 9-20 Jackson J ,C Webb (7) 8

-12 necessed BETTING: 5-2 Superbelle, 7-2 Love No Do, 9-2 Lochinsa, 5-1 Around Fore Allisa, 7-1 French Kles,
8-1 My Legid Engle, 20-1 others
1996: Posen Gold 3 8 9 R Cochrane 13-8 (P Kellevoly) 6 ron FORM GUIDE

SUPERBELLE, placed all four starts to date, but on turf and two on the Wokerhampton Fi-bresand, stands out in this company. Her third to No More Pressure at Wokerhampton lest time has been boosted by fourth-placed Effervescence winning three times here since. Around Fore Allies was time-equations of a length in front of locaticas when runner-up to Feather Bed here lest time and may again thirth second best. Love Me Do can pose a threat if able to reproduce the form of his first two turf runs, while My Legal Eagle is one to watch on his first start for John Hills, This ex-Insh gelding is half-brother to the stable's Avesome Power, successful rune times here.

3.45 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,525 7f D02226 MELLORS (74) (b) Heaton-Ellis (M Heaton-Ellis 4 9 2 500/000- PRAYATE FROURE (63) (CO) (Rethard P Mooney) D Marks 6 8 4 500063- BARRASH (24) (D) (Lohn Puglis) P Elams 5 8 1 050304: UNSPONEN PRAYER (8) (Mrs Sue A Balen) I Amold 4 7 13

-s secured BETTING: 11-4 Fort Macs, 7-2 Bargash, 9-2 Step On Degice, 5-1 See Descig, 6-1 Meliors, 8-1 Jo
Markets, 10-1 Unspoken Prayer, 33-1 Private Fittier

FORM RUDE

BARBASH has gained both his wins on sharp left-hand courses - Warwick and Cattenck - and seemed to show a liking for this track when a nearest-st-the-finish third to Apollo Red lest time on his first run here. Devid Evans' runner is well handcopped on the all-seather, having shown intile in previous runs on Fibresand. He clearly handles Equitrack well enough and his is foncied him today. Fort Knox, who won three consecutively here in March, non from a long way bekt to be fourth to Speedy Classic lest time other a break since September and carn do better today. On his previous run, Fort knox was seventh to Jo Maximus at Brighton. Jo Maximus is 10th better off today and can be forgiven his poor run Bold Effort's roce (6f) last time as he was hampered early on. The stable had a double on Thursday. Step Om Degas was second in Bold Effort's race and the way she was staying on at the end suggests that an extra furlong may surf. See Dandig thished third to Quinz Martin in a Walverhampton race that his not worked out well, white Mellors tacks a recont run.

Selections BARGASH

MUSSELBURGH

12.35 Falcon's Flame 1.05 Trap Dancer 1.35 Trump 2.05 Stash The Cash 2.35 Wayuphill 3.05 Bas De Laine 3.35 The Stuffed Puffin

INSPECTION: 7.30 AM
GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

Right-hand oval course with tight turns..

Course is firm E of Edinburgh on A1. ADMISSION: Club \$1:2
(16:25yrs & students \$6); Tatts \$6 (OAPs \$3). CAR PARK: Pree.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Deskings (1.05), Kennisre Elver (1.35), WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Americ Alice (2-35) sent 187 miles by J Properated from Norton, North Yorkshire. 12.35 MAC MERRY JUVENILE MAIDEN HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m O AMAZINO SAL (19) Mes M Milign 115. A S South
CRAIGHMEN J I. Eyo 115. B Storoy
PAGE HOPE HEMRY M Harmond 115. D Bertley
HIGH HOPE HEMRY M Harmond 115. D Bertley
HIGH HOPE HEMRY M Harmond 115. R Gantity
HIGH HOPE HEMRY M HARMOND IS SOUTH HOPE HEMRY M HARMOND IS SOUTH HOPE HEMRY M HARMOND IS SOUTH HOPE HOLD THE MARKET HEMPS HOLD THE MARKET HOLD THE MARKET HEMPS HOLD THE MARKET HOLD THE MARKET HOLD THE MARKET HEMPS HEMPS HOLD THE MARKET HEMPS H GALTBY HENPECKED (81) G M Moore 1.1 0............ Be

1.05 NEW YEAR CONDITIONALS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 3m

- 12 decigned -SETTENC: 3-1 D'Arbiny Street, 7-2 trap Dencer, 9-2 ifolielscfalls, stormer, 7-1 Highland Park, 12-1 Thomboun Estate, 20-1 oth 1.35 MUSSELBURGH NEW YEAR NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f CHASSE (CLASS E) 2-7-2-00 (CLASS E) 2-7-2-00 (CLASS E) 2-7-2-00 (CLASS E) 2-7-2-10 (CLASS

BETTING: 7-4 Tramp, 3-1 Bold Account, 7-2 Bullyline, 4-1 Deviry, 8-1 Ken-

	- 12		SOUTH COMMENT LET' INTERPRETA	HUNDLE
	ᄩ		(CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m	
	1	525625	DONE WELL (24) (D) P Morreth 5 12 0	A Dobble
	2	01-113	DONE WELL (24) (D) P Mortesth 5 12 0 PRIZEFIGHTER (80) (CD) (8F) J Eyre 6 11 10	B Storey
5	3	2-64311	SHIRONE EDGE (14) (D) T Easterby 5 11 10	A P McCov
E	4	020-211	STASH THE CASH (26) (CD) M Hammond 6 11	5R Gaultty
_	5	5135-	SUROLINK THE REBEL (222) (CD) S Clark 5 10	10. R Supple
1	6	0-52601	KILNAMARTYRA GIRL (26) (CD) J Parles 7 10 0	R Johnson
_	7	3040-52	RAPID MOVER (18) (CD) D Notes 10 10 0	M Moloney B
			– 7 declared –	-
	LA.	dram: 10s	t. True weights: Kilmamartyra Girl 9st 11th, Rapid I	vlover 9sr 8zo.
:			Shining Edge, 11-4 Stash The Cash, 4-1 Priz	
	Do	ne Well, 7	-1 Kilozovertyra Cirl, 20-1 Eurolink The Rebel,	Rapid Mover
	10		HONEST TOUR MADES HANDW	AD UID.
	- 12	2.35	HONEST TOUN MARES HANDIC DLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added :	2 44
			DIE (CLASS E) 23,500 80060	2M 4F
Ŀ	1		WAYUPHELL (8) (BF) C Parker 10 11 10	
	2	140516	BOLANEY GERL (25) (C) F Muragn 8 11 8	A DOMAIN
•	3		SIGDDAW SAMBA (32) Mis M Reveloy 8 11 7	
-	5	2113-30	MESS GREENYARDS (32) (SF) A Whitens 6 11 (ARDE MIEMORRE (19) R Johnson 8 10 13	(c) 189901 G.C
	6	2000042	AUNTIE ALICE (28) I FiziGerald 7 10 13	101E504 7=14 C A
,	7	O DATAE	AMBER HOLLY (24) 3 Doon 8 10 12	r secuj
:	ģ	005.103	PEGGY GORDON (26) (D) Mrs D Tramson 6 10 12	Mice P Stringer
,	g	624064	SBIAND (17) G Moore 5 10 11	. I Collector
	10	1000	ANCHORENA (16) (D) D Barker 5 10 10	P Johnson
:	11	024	M WARDA (31) M Hammond 4 10 5	R Gamilto
,	12	0/54PP-4	MUMARQA (31) M Hammond 4 10 5	0G Cabil
ί.	13	00-650	WALK IN THE WILD (63) D Notan 5 10 0	N Molomey
ŕ			- 13 declared -	
,	M	mum velg	ht: 10st. True handicap weight: Walk in The Wild	Sest (Me).
1	BΕ	TENG: 9-2	Skidday Samba, 5-1 Wayaphill, 7-1 Bolaney	Siri, Alwarqa,
	8-1	Aide Mess	roire, Austie Alice, Peggy Cordon, 10-1 Simand	, 12-1 others
•	_		QUEEN'S STAND HANDICAP	CHASE
	-13	1.05 i	COLERA SIAND HANDONE	UIIAUL
	Ľ			
	1	3-41311	BAS DE LAINE (FR) (43) M Hammond 11 12 0_	R Barnith
	2	121-422	FIVELEICH BUILDS (43) (D) Mass L V Ausself 10	<u> </u>
!	_		GALE AHEAD (31) (D) G M Moore 7 10 1	A Thornton
	3	1-03002	GALE AVEAU (S1) (D) G M MOORE (10 1	
	4	521216	CHARAMAG GALE (LIR) (CD) Mrs S Bradoune 10 10	THE LABOR A

2 05 JOINT COMMITTEE HANDICAP HURDLE

- - a cocurren -BETTING: 5-4 Bas De Laine, 3-1 Gale Ahead, 7-2 Cherming Gale, 9-2 Fiveleigh Builds TRST OF MANY INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH
FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m
BRANDSEY MAISTER (18) P Beaumont 6 11 4 B Grattas (7)
COTTSTOWN BOY May S Bacthuria 6 11 4 Million Milli

COTTSTOWN BOY Mrs S Backture 6 11 4 M Foster LORD PODGSRI (291) P Mortesth 6 11 4 Debid SHOOT LAD (22) R Shels 6 11 4 De Bendley STONESSY G M Moore 5 11 4 Debid STONESSY G M Moore 5 11 4 Debid SHOOT LAD (25) LUIRE 5 10 13 P Mixed AUTURN LORD P Beautorn 4 10 6 R Supple BUSINET WO J Haldare 4 10 6 AS Sertito DIG FOR COLD Miss S Hall 4 10 6 F Leafty DEBID SHOOT LAD (25) LUIRE 5 10 10 SHOOT LAD (25) LUIRE 5 10

- 13 recurred BETTRIC: 5-2 Lord Podgetid, 9-2 Lord in The Post, 7-1 The Staffed Puffin
8-1 Jessica One, Stonesby, Brandsby Minster, 12-1 others

WOLVERHAMPTON

.00 Onefortheditch 1.30 Cats Bottom 2.00 Mr Speculator 2.30 Sooty Tern 3.00 Primula Bairn 3.30 Fast Spin 4.00 Three Weeks 4.30 Elite Hope GOING: Standard. STALLS: 5f, 1m 6f - outside; rest. - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to 1m 4f.

Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.

Course is N of lown on A449, ADMISSION: Club 545; Tattersalls 5f (OAP members of Diamond Club 54). CAR PARK: Free.

SIS RACING CHANNEL

H.INEKRED PRST TIME: Past Spin (3.30), Mono Lady (4.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Amington Lase (3.00), Cannary Falcon (2.00), Elite Hope (4.30) and Komasta (3.30) all won here has Samurday.
LONG-DESTANCE RUNNERS: Desert Lore (1.30) has been sent. 364 miles by R McKellar from Leannahagow, Strainchyde. 1.00 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS MAID-EN (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 1f 79yds

- 13 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Confortheditch, 5-1 Soviet King, 6-1 Degree, 7-1 Holders HE, Sounds Legal, 8-1 One Dream, 12-1 others 1.30 BERNSTEIN LEICESTER HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,525 added 1m 1f 79yds

-8 declared - 1 for June 1 for 1 for

200 BERNSTEIN COVENTRY HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 6f 166yds

2.30 BERNSTEIN WEDNESBURY HANDICAP (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,200 added 7f 1 65060-6 LITTLE ENR (3) (CD) P Earls 6 9 13
3.00 BERNSTEIN BIRMINGHAM CLAIMER (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f 1 00000: BOFFY (7) (CD) B Brush 4 9 6. Victoria Appleby (7) 2 3 05641: Allmetton LASS (7) (CD) P Euros 4 9 6. Victoria Appleby (7) 2 4 000460: SZE ME (SS) WAN 15 9 2 5 104550: WARM HERSTON LASS (7) (CD) P Euros 4 9 6. Victoria Appleby (7) 2 5 00640: AMY LEIGH (7) (D) Cast I Wisson 4 9 1 7 050655: FRANCY DESIGN (8) P Marchel 4 9 1 7 050655: FRANCY DESIGN (8) P Marchel 4 9 1 8 30002: PRIMILIA BARRY (LS) (CD) D Nicholz 79 1 8 30002: PRIMILIA BARRY (LS) (CD) D Nicholz 79 1 8 declared = BETTING: 5-2 Krystol Min., 11-4 Primins Balra, 7-2 Amington Lass, 6-1 Boffy, 8-1 Son Min, Amy Leigh, 14-1 others
3.30 BERNSTEIN WALSALL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 1m 100yds 1 50461.4 FAST SPN (3) RB) T Brann 9 1

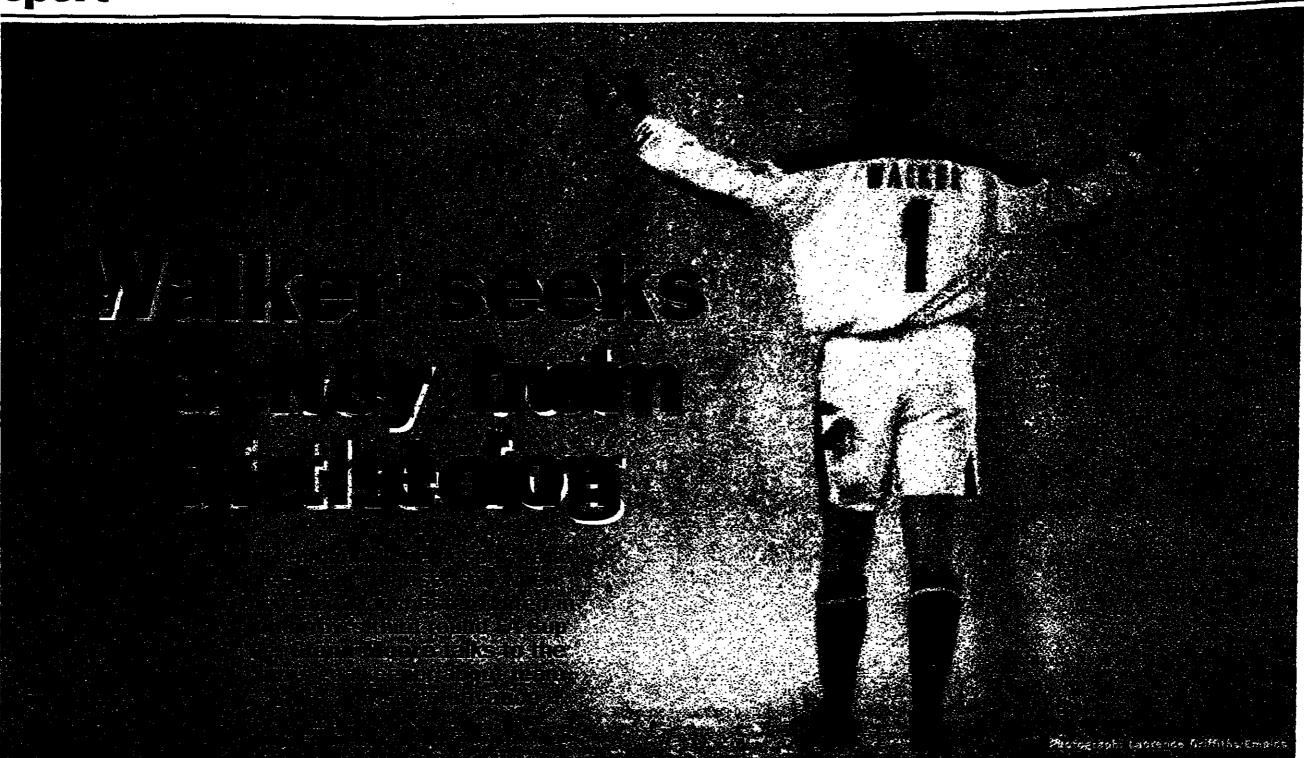
4.00 BERNSTEIN LEICESTER HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,525 added 1m 1f 79yds DG2450- EXPLOSIVE POWER (21) (CD) G Bixery 6 10 0 ... D Wight 7 000211 THREE WEEKS (16) (CD) W Mur 4 9 4 ... F Lynch (3) 4 SY53445- SUGA HAWK (183) E Alston 5 8 13 ... A Collision 1 2/24365- BEAUMAN (18) P Earls 7 8 12 ... Anthony Bond (7) 2

- 8 declared -Milamum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Dia Georgy 6st 10th. SETTING: 7-4 Three Weeks, 3-1 Stevenamon, 4-1 Beautian, 6-1 Mont

Lady, 8-1 Suga Hands, Explosive Power, 16-1 others 4.30 BERNSTEIN WEDNESBURY HANDICAP (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,200 added 7f

Minimum weight 7st 10th. The handled weight Princess Lybhard 7st 9th. IEETTNG: 7-4 Eithe Hope, 11-4 Marjorle Rose, 5-1 Star Talent. 6-1 Live Project, 8-1 Lie Fall, 10-1 Zahran, 12-1 others

sport



into the warm, Ian Walker was still diving around on the frozen earth at Tottenham's Chigwell training ground yesterday. Doesn't he get enough prac-

tice in matches," said one watching cynic, "Only at picking the ball out of the net," said another. Having become the butt of such jokes after last week's 7-1 thrashing at Newcastle, one would have thought that Walker would have gone into hiding. Not a bit of it. A quick shower later he sat down, orange juice and yogurt in hand, to explain why he was looking forward to tomorrow's FA Cup third-round tie against the holders, Manchester United, at Old Trafford.

"A game like this can work in our favour," he said. "It depends let in a lot of goals but I felt I

Long after most of we respond. No disrespect to Leicester [whose midweek players had gone League game with Spurs was frozen off] but it might have been hard to lift ourselves for that; we could have still been down after the weekend. But United at Old Trafford? If you are not up for that, you might as well not be in the game.

So how is the morale and spirit? "Not too bad considering the defeat and the injuries we have picked up. We're just looking to see who's fit. We need our ex-perienced men for this one." Tottenham had just learned that Teddy Sheringham had joined Chris Armstrong, John Scales, Darren Anderton and Gary Mabbutt on the injured list while Sol Campbell, Steffen Iversen and Rory Allen were doubtful, having been unable to train.
And Walker's own morale?

"It's not nice as a goalkeeper to

you say that to people and they look at the score and say, 'Oh yeah?' It was only the fifth goal Philippe Albert's] which I was disappointed with. I didn't have much chance with the others." Self-delusion? No. The Inde-

pendent on Sunday's match reporter had the same view: Walker more than earned his Spurs. He was Tottenham's best player by the length of Scotswood Road." Walker is quick to accept blame when it's due. "It was different to the Bolton game," he said of the November Coca-Cola Cup tie Tottenham lost 6-1. "That was one of the worst games I played, and I said so. But after a couple of days I thought I had been too critical; I had made a couple of mistakes, not six."

The Bolton game was followed by the home defeat to Liverpool, in which Steve achieved all of them: I play for McManaman's innocuous shot

Walker's routine save. "I had felt confident in that game then that

But it's like my Dad says, things can't be up all the time, there will be downs. It is how you react to them." Walker's dad is Mike Walker, manager of Norwich and himself a former League goalkeeper. They speak on the phone but it is more a father-son relationship than a teacher-pupil one. "After Bolton he rang up to say don't worry about it," Walker said. "Then Norwich got beat five and six in a week and I was ringing him up and saying don't worry. Now we've lost seven - it's like we're trying to outdo each other."

During the "downs", Walker reacts by "looking at the overall picture from when I was young. I look at the goals I had when I was 10 and I have Tottenham, I've played for England. It's not that bad, is it?

"Now I want to win things with Tottenham and play regularly for England." With David Seaman injured and Tim Flowers' Blackburn place uncertain, Walker is aware that much could depend on the next few weeks. "I think David will be fit for the Italy game [12 February] but it is important to keep your form and for the team to do

well. Tim Flowers found him-

Blackburn were not doing well." All of which adds to the imnortance of tomorrow's game. If we win, anybody's season can change on one result," Walker said. "If we lose, it puts pressure on us. Realistically it means we then can't win anything, and we have to try and get into Europe."
Challenging for Europe? This is not how the likes of Walker,

Campbell and Sheringham in-

better players may be thinking of moving to greener pastures. "I won't be happy just challenging for Europe but I hope we won't just be doing that. I'm really settled here - I've just signed a new contract. We are not far off being a very good side. We're still looking for new players and in Steffen we have signed a very good one who'll be

How much can Walker expect self out of the squad when from Spurs? The fans regard them as the equal of Arsenal, but as Gerry Francis noted vesterday: Tottenham have only won one trophy in 13 years and not won the title in 36. The last two seasons [seventh and eighth] have been their best finishes in the League in seven seasons. When I was manager at QPR they finished 10th-15th."

here for years to come."

Damning figures. But Francis and Spurs' recent fortunes have statistics as is the Department of provoked speculation that their Employment. The last two ex- a long time now and I've nev-

amples are slightly misleading and the third places achieved by Keith Burkinshaw (1985), David Pleat (1987) and Terry Venables (1990) are never mentioned. But results are not the main

problem as far as fans are con-

cerned. They accept Francis has been restricted by injuries and unscheduled departures by the likes of Jürgen Klinsmann. They regard Alan Sugar as the real reason the club is slipping behind their neighbours. What they blame Francis for is the way Spurs are playing. Their feelings were summed recently when David Pleat said of a Spurs game: "Someone said they could not see the ball - I said look up in the air." He added that Allan Nielsen's long throws and Walk-er's goal-kicks were all Spurs had

to offer as attacking options. Plear's own passing side is sisted: "I've been a manager for

the fans started clapping.

don't go to Old Trafford and tend to spend their careers, is as notorious for massaging of now a fond memory. Francis in expect to have a comfortable af-

on our morale and spirit, how played well at Newcastle. But hit a divot and bounced over Clive Walker No 199 by Paul Coleman

Ray Clemence must wince every time he sees Clive Walker's bald head. In 1978, Walker, then 19, was playing for struggling Chelsea. His blond hair flowing, Walker embarassed a dozing Clemence with a 20-yard drive which sent mighty Liverpool - then European and League champions - crashing to a shock FA Cup third-round defeat at Stamford Bridge. Walker, now 39, is ending his

career as he began it, by scoring crucial FA Cup goals, this time for non-League Woking. He hit the winner against Millwall and an opener against Cambridge United. Thirdround opponents Coventry City are Walker's next target. But I can vividly remember another day - 14 October 1978 when Clive Walker caused absolute pandemonium.

Bolton Wanderers, newly promoted to the First Division, were hoping to be the fifth side in a row to thump the Blues at the Bridge, Bolton included a young lad called Peter Reid and two veteran former Manchester United stalwarts: Willie Morgan and Tony Dunne. Earlier that week, Chelsea

had failed to persuade Johan Cruvff to come out of retirement. Ruud Guillit was not the first flying Dutchman Chelsea had set their sights on. Three times during that first half the Chelsea faithful were forced to watch Bob Iles, signed for £10,000 from non-League Weymouth, retrieve the ball from the back of Chelsea's net.

Alan Gowling's 18th and 41st-minute goals arrived like efficient trains on a rush-hour timetable, coming either side of a penalty converted after 35 minutes by Frank Worthington. Referee Eric Read blew for half-time as the bright October sun beamed on our miserable faces in The Shed. Not even the most ardently orthodox (an believed that Chelsea, captained by Ray "Butch" Wilkins. managed by Ken Shellito, and inspired by neither, could silence that Bolton tune.

A few Chelsea fans sneaked home. During the second-half the game and the crowd went to sleep. Bolton were content with 3-0 and Chelsea were intent on damage limitation. Out of the dug-out clam-

bered Clive Walker to replace the anonymous Garry Stanley. The Shed croaked one verse of: "Clive Walker on the wing". Walker was soon tormenting

Paul Jones, Bolton's rightback. "Jones seemed to stand still," Walker said afterwards, describing his first touch of the ball. Walker cut past Jones and his low centre was stabbed home by Tommy "Lungs" Langley: 1-3. The 75th minute. At last, some consolation. Langley's rare goal counted

purely as consolation until the 82nd minute when Chelsea attacked with rare purpose. The ball sat up for Kenny Swain in the box. Surrounded by Bolton's Mike Walsh, Sam Allardyce, Roy Greaves and keeper Jim McDonagh, Swain slipped on to his backside but somehow managed to scuff the ball into Bolton's net: 2-3. Could Chelsea, now suddenly full of beans, steal an improbable equaliser in the remaining eight minutes?

The Shed was now alive, passionate, in full voice. Jittery Bolton tried possession play, orchestrated by the wily Worthington. It worked - until the 87th minute. A Wanderers attack broke down on the edge of the Chelsea box. Midfielder Ray Lewington hit the best nass of his entire career, a long high raking effort that fell plum into Walker's flight path

on Chelsea's left wing. Walker left Jones stumbling in his slipstream on the halfway line. Chelsea's new East Stand stood up as one and roared as Walker arrowed straight for Bolton's goal, entering Bolton's area one-onone with McDonagh. The keeper appeared to sit back slightly as Walker's shot sped past his fingertips.

The back of that deep net billowed. 3-3. Stamford Bridge erupted with unbridled joy. "We've got the bastards on the rack now," erupted a bloke who had stood dormant beside me during the first half. The Bolton fans were in mute shock at the other end. The last minute and hardly

any injury time due. Magneti-cally, Walker again collected the ball wide on the left. En masse the East Stand rose again. Walker scampered forward and reached the edge of the box at an acute angle. His left peg connected sweetly with the ball, a belter of a low cross-cum-shot. The ball skimmed hard and low over the turf, passing McDonagh. Bolton defender Sam Allardyce, retreating desper-ately, slid out a leg but only managed to slice Walker's drive into the roof of that Bolton net. From 0-3 to 4-3. Pandemonium at the Bridge as Read

blew the final whistle. I can still hear the noise of that 19,879 crowd whenever I look at the photograph which captures the immediate aftermath of Walker's winner. The shell-shocked McDonagh and the distraught, motionless Allardyce, lying face down, legs wide apart as if he had been shot in the back; the drained, forlorn figure of Walsh and Langley, peeling away in sheer delight, as the ball drops from

the roof of the net. A postscript to my fond memories of that afternoon came three seasons ago, many years after I had divorced Chelsea to shack up with my local non-League hopefuls, En-field. Woking, the visitors in an FA Trophy semi-final, includ-ed a baiding, podgy winger by the name of Clive Walker.

Clive looked good, a real old pro. Enfield were dumped and Walker and Woking went on to be winners at Wembley. He never got there with Chelsea, so I was pleased he had a Wembley memory. Walker might now be 39 but, even if Woking are 3-0 down at Coventry, you certainly won't catch me sneaking out before that final whistle blows.

TODAY - Stevenage v Birmingham... (at St Andrew's, Birmingham) FA Cup third round 21 Stoke v Stockout 1 Arsenal y Sun Wycombe v Bradford City.... Barnsley v Oldham. Off (playing 14 Jan) Blackhum v Port Volo

Cardsie v Transment Second Division 26 Bury v Shre - Walsali v Blackopol

11 Glungham v Derby Off (14 Jan)

- Hednesdord v York City Off (13 Jan)
12 Lecester v Southend Off (15 Jan)
13 Liverpool v BurnleyOff (14 Jan)

16 Middlesbrough v Chester 16 Norwich v Sheffield Utd Notinghem Forest v Ipsvich
 Petitorough
 Rouger's Park Rangers v Huddersfield ... 31 Hereiora v Deningues 32 Hull City v Colchester

22 Watford v Oxford UtdOff (14 Jan 23 Wolves v Portsmouth ... 24 Wrexham v West Ham

Nationwide Football League

- Barnet v Lincoln 27-Brighton v Exeter 28 Cambridge Littly Northampton 29 Doncester v Rochdale

33 Leyton Onent v Mansfield ... Bell's Scottish League Premier Division 35 Aberdeen v Dunfermin

36 Celtic v Motherwei 37 Dundee Utd v Kilmarrack 38 Hiberman y Rangers First Division

42 Falkirk v Clydebank 43 Partick v String ...

Tenneats Scottish Cup Second round - Ayr v Clyde Berwick v Peterhead Brechin v Livingston . 45 Brechin v Livingston......Off (8 Jan) 46 Cowdenbeath v Dumbarton Off (7 Jan)

fence.

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

Queen's Park v Gala Falrydean . 47 Ross County v Montrose _Off (11 Jan) -Spartens v Arbroath (2.0) 48 Stenhousemuir v Hamilton. 49 Stranger v Inverness CT , Off (11 Jan) — Whitehill v Queen of the South (2.15) ::

TOMORROW FA Cup third round

ton v Newcastle (1.30) Everton v Swindon (3.0) soor lind v Tottenham (4,10)

Nationwide Football League Third Division

Fulham v Swansee...

Off Matches postponed because of from priches. (Other metches are Rely to be suject to pitch inspections).

TEAM SHEET

Morrison and Sam Collins out.

Reading v Southampto

Beasant will continue in goa as Taylor is cup-tied. Manag er Souness will make a late de

Sheff Wed v Grimsby

FA Cup third round TODAY

Arsenal y Sunderland Wates stilker Hartson replaces suspended Wright for Arsanal. Injuries are also a major worry — with Seaman, Platt, Dixon and Garde all ruled out, but Bergkamp, Adams, Merson and Parlour have all passed fitness tests. Russell has recovered from flu and is in contention to return to Sunderland's attack but, with Rae still unovallable, they may be ununavallable, they may be un-changed and leep the side who held Coventry to a 2-2 draw on New Year's Day.

Blackburn v Port Vale BlackButmy Port Vale
Hitcroft is fit again after an ankle injury and could be brought.
In an a Rover's substitute. The
wersoille Warintst is recalled
to the squad. Vale have major injury wordes over labor
(shin) and Aspin (goon). There
are also signt doubts over
Porter, Walker and Mills, so
Jansson and Stokes are on
stand-by. tand-by.

> Carlisia y Transpore Carlisle manager Day, 8 Cup winner, with: West "Ham In 1975, was voted That Division manager of the mouth yes meriay. Simonsan could earn an FA Cup debut for Trainnere In place of the injured Coyne Chelsea y West Brom

Vielli may have to wait for a Chelsea recell. West Brom's new central defender, Marphy, is standing by to make his de-but in place of Burgess, who was forced off with a knee in-jury during Alborn's New Year's Day defeat by Tranmere. Crewe v Wimbledon Crawe have defenders West-wood and Smith back from sos-

pension. The only absence is Rivers, who has undersone

raisers, who has undergone surgery for a bemile and is like-ly to be out for six weeks. Wim-

bledon should be unchanged after just one defeat in 20 Plymouth v Peterboro Plymouth hope Grobbelaar will be fully recovered from flu. Carto stay recover worth a car-ruthers and Payne have both been passed fit for Peterbor-ough, but on-loan Donowa is ineligible. Charlery has been suffering from flu, but is tike-ly to play.

Liverpool v Burnley Liverpool v Buraley
Liverpool are expected to rest
leading scorer Fowler, who is
struggling to strake off the effects of a shin injury. Ruddock
will be hoping to recover from
a pulled hamstring which saw
him substituted against
Chelsee on New Year's Day, so
Matteo stands by. Burnley
have defender Swan missing
through suspension, but Beresford, Winstanley, Barnes and
David have all strugged off injuries. **OPR v Huddersfield** Rangers will be without the services of McDermott and Alan McDonald: McDermott is cur-MCLIONALIC MOLEMBOR: IS CUr-rently in Tarkii representing Aus-tralia in a youth tournament while McDonald is serving a one-match ban. Huddersfield have defensive wornes with Sknoott (Achilles) doubtful and

Middlesbro v Chester Middlesbrough recall. Whyte after suspension and a broken nose. He takes over from manager Robson, who has suffered enother science attack following his Premiership comeback at Arsenal, Juninho to take the property of the comeback at Arsenal. Juninho is ruled out by a thigh strain. Ferning and Stamp are added to the squad. Chester will be without her key players. New signings McDonald and Reid are ineligible, while Davidson, Filteroft and skipper Jackson are alf suspended. Shelton, Malner and Woods are alf likely to return. er souriess will make a late ce-cision on whether to start with England midfielder Le Tissier, Midfielder Oaldey is in con-tention for a recall after re-covering from a chest infection.

Norwich v Sheff Utd Midfield man Crook is receiled after missing Norwich's lest Wednesday's Carbone is out with a groin strein so Hirst, Booth and Humphress contest places up front. Grinsby should be unchanged and will be hoping that the Cup gives them some respite from their League shumples. against a gasinst a atter missing reconstrates text three games with a calf injury. Also back is Carey, but full-backs Bradshaw and Mills are out. The Blades are without Vonk, Ward, Whitehouse and Short (all Injured), while Tay-lor and Hutchison heve flu.

has the same problem.

League struggies – against a Wednesday side unbeaten in 11 games. Ntm Forest v Ipswich Forest caretaker-manager Pearce will be without Clough and Blatherwick, but Bart-(at Birmingham) Left-back Grainger is standing by to make his first appearance of the season for Birmingham, after suffering major knee lig-ament damage during a pre-session friendly against Eventor. Williams is back in the squad swich will have Williams back after itu, which forced him to miss the New Year's Day draw at Charlton, but Mason now Stevenage may include former Birmingham apprentice Adams

In their midfield. If the non-League side retain a five-man back line, Cretton and Webster will contest the final spot in de-

Thompson is fit again after missing Wolves' last four missing Wolves IBSL Tour-games with a calf strain. Roberts is fit after fit but Richards is still struggling with a knee problem. Pompey are support Supersson (suspenwithout Svensson (su

sion) and Bradbury (flu). Dumin or Hall are set to deputise, while Hillier could be recalled Wrexham v West Ham exham are hoping that Conwretnam are hoping that Con-nolly and Brace will be fit. Carey is certain to be back in action after a two-match ban. West Ham welcome back Breacker, who is likely to re-place Bowen. Rowland re-turns after flu and manager Redknapp is keen for Jones to overcome knee problems and Reading should be unchanged but strikers Morley and Nogan go into Cup combet knowing that the club are looking to sign a forward on loen to boost their goal output. For the Saints Morikou is struggling with flu. Beasant will continue in goal as layer is cup-tied. Manage 1990.

> TOMORROW Wycombo v Bradford Wycombe will be without on loan pair Davis and Simpson plus recent signing Comforth, who has a recurrence of ham who has a recurrence of ham-string trouble. City will seek in-spiration from Waddle.

overcome knee problems and start the game up front.

Chariton v Newcastle Chartton will gave late fitness tests to defender Brown and winger Robinson, who both have slight leg injuries. On-loan defender Scott from Spurs is not eligible and Rufus and Chandler are included in the squad. Newcastle have had to train indoors because of the snow, but both Watson and Peacock have recovered from Peacock have recovered from the injuries they received in the 3-0 win over Leeds.

Everton v Swindon Everton manager Royle will be forced to change the side who lost to Blackburn Rovers

on New Year's Day, with new recruit Phelan ineligible for FA Cup duty. The former Liverpool winger Welters is set to refui to Swindon's side after mis ing the last two games with a thigh strain. He is expected to replace Collins in their midfield. Midfielder Gooden could also make a comeoack after three weeks out with a groin injury, but the on-loan lottenham defender Kerslake is unavail-

Man Utd y Spurs

Manager Ferguson will decid whether Cole or Solskijar starts the game for United Butt, who has had treatmer Butt, who has had treatment on an anide injury, appears to be responding well and should make it, though Scholes stands by fottenham stapper Sheringham is our for three weeks after damaging his anide in a training ground collaboration provides an artifacture of the machine provides and seeme of the second standard seeme of the second seeme of t sion with reserve goalkeep Bardsen. Also missing a Scales, Armstrong, Anderto and long-term casualty Mab-but, while Nersen (NJ), Camp-bell (ankle), and Allen (back) are all rated extremely doubt-tut. South interages Premise fees drafted in youngsters Hill, Clapham and Ferm for the Old Trafford trip.

Notts Co y Aston Villa Referee Sodenham will call in Registe Booler marn was can he wadow Lane today on hi way to officiate at the nearth City Ground. He will inspect the fregen pitch at 1 moon; Cour y officials have been workin y officials have been working hard in what they describe as a "fight against nature" — there are courently three inches of show on the pitch. Villa midfielder Draper is battling to shake off a goon problem to face his former cub. Fellow midfielder Taylor is suffering from a variety of bumps and bruises that also make him doubtful. With central defend. doubtful. With central defender Scimeca troubled by a hea injury, there could be a shock

recall for fit-again Southgate

Which brought us to tomorrow's game. It is not inconceiv-

er had had any of my teams

questioned over their style of

football. I played virtually the

same at QPR, with two wingers

and talented players like Ted-

dy Sheringham." Yet Walker,

when pressed, admitted: "I

threw the ball out recently and

able that Spurs could win. Away from home they seek to contain and counter. As Middlesbrough found earlier this season, it can be very effective and not unattractive. However, once they have gone behind and have to chase the game, holes appear in the defensive organisation. That is what happened at Newcastle and it could do at Old Trafford.

"It would be nice to have a quiet game," Walker said, "but vou ternoon. I'll expect a bombardment. That way I'll be ready.

Rangers ordered to play

Flu-ridden Rangers were last night told that their Bell's Scottish League Premier Division fixture with Hibernian at Easter Road today has to go ahead.

The Ibrox club failed in an appeal to the Scottish League management committee to have the match postponed because of huge injury and illness problems. Rangers' manager, Walter Smith, asked his staff to lodge medical certificates with the League and ask for a postponement, but after phoning round delegates his plea was rejected. Title rivals Celtic were represented in the decision by director Eric Riley, with Ab-erdeen, Dundee United and Raith the other Premier Division clubs represented.

A League spokesman said: Rangers have 36 full professionals and 11 apprentice professionals, giving them 47 players. Medical certificates showed they had 11 fit full professionals and eight apprentice professionals who are fit, so the committee was not of a

mind to postpone the fixture. It is understood some of the Rangers medical certificates pertained to injuries as well as flu symptoms and now they look certain to field players who are carrying knocks.

Rangers had to play without Richard Gough and Brian Laudrup in Thursday's 3-1 win over Celtic, with several other players suffering flu symptoms. Now it looks as though they will be without Gough, Landrup, Paul Gascoigne, Erik Bo Andersen and several others from the side that beat Celtic as they take a

14-point lead to Easter Road. "I am unable to name a squad for the match and it will be a very strange Rangers lineup." Smith said. He claimed that Rangers had only nine senior players in training yesterday — with three of those being goal-

keepers. Hibernian will be without the suspended pair Andy Millen and John Hughes, while Rah Shannon is injured.

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CONT

sport The temperature in Glasgow had less chance of climbing above freezing than Celtic now have of winning the championship

than Hans Christian, but it was still a fairy-tale nonetheless. "C'mon Andersen, score the winner for us and we'll love you forever," exalted the two Ulstermen who stood throughout, growing increasingly impassioned, at the back of Ibrox's main stand on Thursday.

The Danish striker duly obliged, his late double transforming him, in the eyes of the Rangers faithful at least, from ugly duckling to swan and sending Tommy Burns and his beleaguered team homewards to think again after a shattering 3-1 defeat. And like the frightened for who held up the action at November's Old Firm game at Celtic Park, Jackie Mc-Namara, the young defender whose "fankle" (that's a mistake to all Sassenachs) gifted Rangers their second goal, discovered that, in games of this nature, there is never any place to hide.

morning's papers preferred Nine in a Bo) but not quite the nine in a row that Ibrox covets so much. Not yet.

most important game of the year, if not the decade – even if the two managers did their utmost to play anyway. The statistics simply record that this was the ninth consecutive Old Firm game in which Celtic have failed to beat their arch-rivals; in contrast with the wide open race

for the English Premiership, the Scottish championship race is all over bar the shouting. Even the most optimistic of Celtic fans (Burns himself) must now admit that it is going to take a slip up of Newcastle-like proportions for Rangers, now 14 points clear, to loosen their vicelike grip. Or perhaps, as someone ventured to Burns after the game, a miracle. "Ah, but I believe in miracles," was the Celtic manager's curt and defiant riposte.

Ne'erday games, are always what football likes to call six pointers, but it down beforehand.

The most important thing in Old Firm games, as in life, is composure," was Burns' sage contribution, although there was precious little of that commodity in evidence on the night. As Billy McNeill, formerly manager of Manchester City and the man in charge at Parkhead when Celtic last won the championship in 1988, once observed: "Compared to the Old Firm, the Manchester derby is just a March wind. Rangers against Celtic is a January hurricane." In fact, this was more cold firm than Old Firm; both teams were left threadbare by a ferocious flu bug and the temperature in Glasgow had Old Firm games, particularly the less chance of climbing above freezing than Celtic now have of winning the championship.

Olivia Blair



from the year the club was found-ed) was doing a roaring trade before the game in training jackets, hats and scarves. But if it was chilly, it was not the Chile that Sebastian Rozental is familiar with. Rangers paraded their new signing, a long-haired striker from Santiago, before the game; if it was not simply a quirk of the cal-endar which made this one the shop (which takes its name, 1873,

Goals apart, Rozental drew the biggest cheer of the night; that is, apart from the moment midway through the first half when Rangers' goalkeeper Andy Goram, in returning the ball towards the centre circle, hit Celtic's Italian striker Paul Di Canio on the back; not once, but twice. It was, of course, unintentional; Goram may have thwarted Celtic more times in Old Firm derbies than they will care to remember - Burns has gone as far as to say he wants the inscription on his gravestone to read: "Here lies Tommy Burns, his heart broken by Andy Goram - but the goalie's style is more spectacular than sly.

At least Di Canio was not wearing the rumoured luminous green boots, nor a replica of the gold pair which had raised £58,000 at auction the previous week. Nevertheless, his legs were still a favourite topic of dis-

old was signed from a club named cussion among female callers to Wee unnatural time for any match, let Fat Bob's Show on Scot FM after the game, when every caller eschewed the suggested topics of conversation, among them Roger Moore's alimony payments and Mandy Allwood's bank balance, in favour of an Old Firm post-mortem.

Not that it was a classic. For the

neutral it must have appeared a tame game of cat and mouse until Andersen took the game beyond Celtic's reach. But in many ways the 90 minutes was simply the sub-plot to a drama which had been unfolding for days, in which the fans, as much as the players, had starring roles. They came from far and wide: from nearby Motherwell - as the biggest flag of the night, un-furled on Celtic's Broomloan Road End revealed - and from the Rangers supporters' club in Blackpool. Sky Sports may have tried to spoil the proceedings by calling for the game to kick off at 6.30pm. an

alone one of this magnitude, but nothing was going to detract from this spectacle.

The state of the s

At the final whistle Gazza, whose own performance was measured rather than memorable, reappeared wearing just blue-and-white flip flops on his feet. He could probably have walked barefoot on a bed of nails and felt no pain, such was his delight. By contrast, the Celtic players appeared leaden-footed. their band of fans, now cruelly conspicuous in their garish highlighter vellow-and-brown striped away shirts, motionless. Glasgow's East End will take some lifting after this. "Cheer up Tommy Burns..." taunted the Rangers fans as they streamed away. Ave, it was a happy new year indeed if you were of blue and white persuasion. Those two Ulstermen were more emphatic: "It's the happiest new year we've

Sheringham ruled out as Francis feels heat



Graeme Sonness and Ossie Ardiles could all testify, Premiership managers often fall after their sides succumb to lower-division opposition in knock-out competition. It will be small consolation for Gerry Francis, whose tenure with Tottenham is under fire for the first

leap into the unknown to wor-

As Ray Harford,

ry about tomorrow. All Francis has to concern of a trip to Old Trafford, home of the FA Cup holders and the perfect place to go when you have just been hit for seven at Newcastle. Defeat by Manchester United, who have beaten them twice since losing 4-1 at White Hart Lane in the opening match of 1996, could spark a crisis at Spurs, whose season would effectively be over by the half-way stage.

ham. The England striker, who was thought likely to reconsider his future at the club in the event of an early exit. damaged an ankle in a training collision with Espen Bardesen vesterday and will be out for three weeks.

"It's a massive blow for us. definitely not what we wanted to hear." Francis said. "What makes it worse is that Chris Armstrong is still recovering from his operation, Steffen

Phil Shaw says Premiership clubs are in for a tough time this weekend in third-round matches in the FA Cup

Rory Allen is doubtful with a but few people would write us

"On top of that, Sol Campbell hasn't been able to train all week because of an ankle problem. In fact, I've got a whole team out injured. I've looked at time, that he does not have a the list and it's quite a good side." The number of postponed ties

reached double figures yesterday, but despite the big chill it himself with is the small matter is likely to be hot enough to fire pottery at some of the venues awaiting Premiership clubs. Take the Racecourse Ground, for example, where Harry Redknapp's West Ham would be left with nothing more than a relegation fight to look forward to if they lost to Wrexham today. The Welsh club's manager,

Brian Flynn, tasted glory at the same stage five years ago when they put out the champi-As if the pressure on Francis ons, Arsenal. "That game was and his chairman, Alan Sugar, unforgettable but what people was not intense enough. Spurs don't remember is that we West Ham close in the next round, too, Flynn said.

They know how hard it can

be here. Our problem is that Stockport have already beaten them in the Coca-Cola Cup recently. To lose twice to Second Division opposition would mean big trouble for a Premier club, and they will be hell-bent on making sure it doesn't havpen. But it's a one-off -- we only just managed to hold Colwyn Bay to a draw in the first round,

takes Burnley to Liverpool. Heath was at Anfield on Boxing Day when Leicester stopped the Premiership leaders by sti-fling Steve McManaman, though it would be asking a lot for a Sec-Southampton have a similarond Division defender to man-

mark the England attacker with

quite the same discipline of an

Ipswich, who won a replay at

Blackburn last January, will

hardly be daunted by a visit to

Nottingham Forest, who have

won only once at home all sea-

son. Middlesbrough might even

struggle to see off Chester, al-

though the Riverside's last Third

Division visitors, Hereford, did

Meanwhile, the only non-

League outfit to have beaten the

elements, Stevenage, should be

buoyed by the tactless com-

ments of Birmingham's owner,

David Sullivan. Announcing

that his club were using hot air

to defrost St Andrew's (they

now they have a machine to do

it), Sullivan tempted fate by say-

Stevenage an advantage by

playing on a sub-standard pitch.

up sounding like hot air them-

selves. Birmingham, in case he

has forgotten, have lost at home

to Altrincham and Kiddermin-

ster in recent times, and have

not kicked a ball in earnest for

Conference champions won 6-1 away on New Year's Day. Let

In contrast, the Vauxhall

a fortnight.

His remarks could well end

concede seven.

international counterpart.

ly arduous task at Reading, itself a warm-up for the midweek meeting with Stockport in the other sudden-death competition. Their manager, Graeme Souness, will need no reminding that his reign at Liverpool ended three years ago this month after a replay defeat by Bristol City.

Nor can Newcastle, who visit Charlton tomorrow, or resurgent Blackburn, home to Port Vale, feel entirely confident. The return of Robert Lee to The Valley will serve only to inspire his old club while Vale head north heartened by last year's giant-killing of holders Everton as well as by one of the First Division's best away records.

The top-flight team most at risk, however, could again be used to have Barry Fry but Everton. Apart from Vale, Stockport and York have esson Park in the past 12 months. giving Swindon every encouragement against Joe Royle's injury-ravaged side tomorrow.

The return to the Swindon attack of Mark Walters, who will doubtless receive the welcome traditionally extended to former Liverpool players, could be significant for Steve McMahon's prospects of putting one over his first club

Another Old Evertonian, Adrian Heath, should enjoy an the slay ride begin.

Cup plans proceed despite scandal

Henman reaches another semi-final interesting reception when he

Tennis

DERRICK WHYTE reports from Doha

Tim Henman was made to fight hard to defeat Sweden's Mag-nus Gustafsson 6-3, 7-6 in the quarter-finals of the Qatar

Open in Doha yesterday. Henman had little difficulty in taking the first set, but his opponent was sharper in the second, which went to a tie-break as the British No 1 lost his fluency. But he got through this crisis to take the tie-break comfortably and progress into the last four of a tournament he now has every chance of win-

Henman, who has never reached an ATP tour final, will now play diminutive left-handed Morrocan Hicham Arazi, 23, in the semi-final. Arazi beat Magnus Larsson of Sweden

The other semi-final will see the American former world Spain's Sergi Bruguera, twice winner of the French Open. Henman, looking to improve

his world ranking of 29, broke Gustafsson in the fourth game of the first set to love with some excellent groundstrokes. In a match played mostly from the baseline. Henman at once started to dominate an on-

ponent he beat in straight sets

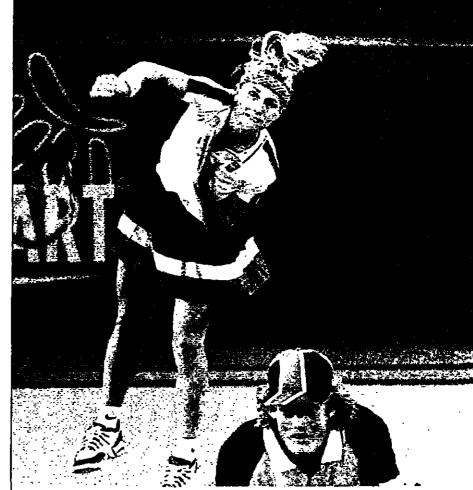
on his fine run to the quarterfinals at Wimbledon last sum-Henman had clearly taken confidence from the last round when he eased past Egypt's

Tamer El Sawy on New Year's Day 6-3, 6-2. The seventh game was per-haps the key to the opening set. Henman, under real pressure on his own serve, was taken to

deuce, but the Briton held his nerve to move into a 5-2 lead. Yet in the second, Henman the highest-ranked player not seeded for this event battled to keep his momentum against fifth-seeded Gustafsson as the Swede, celebrating his 30th birthday, launched an impres-

sive comeback. Gustafsson had four break points in an epic fourth game of the second set yet Henman, struggling with his first serve, did enough to win through. But the Swede refused to concede defeat, punishing some loose play and some ill-judged drop shots from his opponent to earn three separate set points at 6-5.

Henman, however, saved each of them to take the second set into a tie-break, and he at once moved into a 4-1 lead as Gustafsson lost his way and





Courier extended his stranglehold over Thomas Muster to seven successive wins. Courier's 6-3. 7-5 quarter-final victory extended a sequence stretching back to the 1992 Australian

Courier, who has won four Grand Slam titles, thrived in the windy conditions while Muster said he had not fully recovered from a marathon second round win over Christian Ruud on

Thursday night "I'm used to playing in a stiff breeze so it doesn't worry me," Courier said. Muster broke Courier in the first game but the American returned the compliment and broke decisively in the eighth game. Courier broke through again in the 11th game of the second set before wrapping up victory after 87 minutes.

Bruguera booked his place with a 6-1, 2-6, 6-3 win over defending champion and sixth seed. Petr Korda of the Czech Wayne Ferreira guided South

in their 2-1 victory over Romania in Perth yesterday. The world No 10 levelled the tie with a 7-6, 7-6 victory over Adrian Voinca and then combined with Amanda Coetzer to

Africa into the final of the

Hopman Cup by playing a ma-jor part in both their victories

win the doubles. Romania, who needed to win the tie to stay in the eightteam tournament, were given a glimmer of hope when the world No 11, Irina Spirlea, beat

Coetzer 5-7, 6-4, 6-1. But there was no stopping South Africa as the third seeds maintained their unbeaten run to carn a place in the final against the United States today. South Africa can partly credit their their progress to the final to Switzerland's Marc Rosset. who retired with a back problem when leading Ferreira 6-0, 2-1 on Wednesday.

The second-seeded Swiss were then forced to default the doubles to give South Africa an unlikely 2-1 victory. Rosset showed no signs of his injury yesterday when he beat Germany's Bernd Karbacher in straight sets in the other Group B tie.

No 6, had her third consecutive straight-sets victory in the event when she beat Petra Begerow 6-1, 6-1 in just 47 minutes. The Swiss pair combined to win the doubles to take the tie 3-0.

Plan for reports from Paris irst Hala

Explosive new evidence of systematic bribery of opponents by Olympique Marseilles - including the "buying" of European games - will have no impact on French plans to host the World Cup next year, the French football authorities said vesterday. A four-year investigation by

an examining magistrate has produced evidence of "massive fraud" by the Marseilles club under the chairmanship of the disgraced French politician, Bernard Tapie, from 1987 to 1993. The allegations, which will go to trial later this year, extend far beyond the already proven case of the throwing of a key French league game by Valenciennes in May 1993. Twenty people have been sent for trial, including the former coach of OM and France. Michel Hidalgo.

American football

EASTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

AMPERICATE TOULAND AND AMPLE Florida SZ Fonda State 20.

ASSOCIATED PRESS Final college rankings:
A Florida (12-1): 2 One State (11-1): 3 Fonda
State (11-1): 4 Autome State (11-1): 5 Beginn
Young (14-1): 6 Nebroski (11-2): 7 Penn State
(11-2): 8 Colorado (10-2): 9 Tennessee (10-2):
20 North Carolina (10-2):

Pet 68 .774 -.733 1¹² .500 8¹² .407 11 .286 14¹² .276 15 .214 16¹²

.871 -.767 3½; .867 6½; .593 9 .567 9½; .517 11 .484 12½; .333 18½;

.774 --.733 1½ .400 11½ 357 12½ 286 14½ 267 15½ 194 18

The magistrate, Pierre Philipon, says OM paid out over £11m in bribes to opposing players and clubs and, in at least one case, a referee. Among the games under suspicion of being influenced in this way are the European Cup semi-final between OM and Spartak Mos-cow in April 1991 and a European Champions' League match between OM and Club

Bruges in 1993.

The report also cites evidence that the French club, which enjoyed the most successful period of its history under Tapie, paid nearly £40,000 to an Austrian referee before a European Cup game with AEK Athens in 1989. The referee, a Mr Kohl, has since died. But a Croat intermediary. Liubo Barin, admitted that he had received the money - in the guise of payments for fictitious friendly matches - and passed it on to the match official.

The new allegations are intensely embarrassing for the French football authorities as they prepare to host the World Cup next year. The 20 people who will go on trial later this year include Tapie and seven other senior former OM officials, several intermediaries and

the former president of the Mulhouse club, André Goerig. A spokesman for the French football federation said yesterday that, although these were serious new allegations, "nothing is proven at this stage." Action had already been taken to ban Tapie and strip OM of their French title for 1993 on the basis of proven match-rigging.

"If something more is proven, we will take appropriate action," the spokesman said. In the meantime, he saw no threat to next year's World Cup.

The examining magistrate, M Philipon, hints in his report that the scale of the corruption in European competitions may be much wider than he was able to uncover within the limited, legal

the recent evidence of illega payments and kickbacks in the transfer of players between European countries, the report casts a disturbing light on the honesty of the entire European The magistrate says Tapie

scope of his inquiry. Following

was ready to use any means to make OM a top chib, because "the success of the club would be his personal success and would help him to become the mayor of Marseilles". Under Tapie, the club developed a "system of false billing and em-bezzlement" to establish "slush funds" intended to "buy certain matches, approach certain players and corrupt certain referees.

Tapie has been given a jail sen-tence for his part in the fraudulent activities of OM. He remains a free man because, as a sitting Euro MP, he has immunity from prosecution in France. The European Parliament has been asked to lift this immunity and

SPORTING DIGEST

ice skating

9 .719 -11 .867 1½ 15 .531 5 19 .406 10 18 .379 10½ 19 .387 11 20 .333 12 SHEFFIELD SHELD (First day of four) Administrative South Wesles 282 for 5 C Richards 75) v South Australia. Partic Victoria 322 for 9 (R PLarkin 104, 17) Harvey 55) v Western Australia.

MBA: Charlotte 107 Deltas 97: Cleveland 103
Phoenix 94: Detroit 99 Boston 87; Mornt 101
New Jersey 91: Ortando 96 Toronto 94; Visehngios 80 New York 22: Houston 96 Portland 112;
Sen Antonio 83 Usin 80: Sestile 96 Philadelphia 82; Sectamento 83 La Lakers 90.
FASTERBA ANALECTIONACE NOTE 155
RED BAND WORLD CHAMPHONSHEP (Purificet, Essen) Quarter-Satiste P Evison (Engl st 1 Harvey (Soci) 5-3; P Taylor (Engl st K Deler (Engl 5-1.

Football POTENTIAN
JENSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division:
Postponed: Gorleston v Losessoft.
TRANSFERS: Stuart Blanson (detender) Bury
to Lincoln (undisclosed fee); Sheun Nurphy
idelender) Notic County to West Brom (undis-

Sandy Lyle, who has not won a tour-nament for more than four years, is to base himself in south Florida this season in an attempt to improve his per-formances. The 38-year-old Soot is nning to compete in 22 events on

NML: Hartford 4 Boston 5 (ou; New Jersey 1 Presburgh 6, NY Rangers 4 Ny Elendors 3; Chron-go 2 Phoena, 4; St Louis 2 Montreel 2 (od); Col-

orado 3 Colgany 2; Vancouver 4 Los Angeles 3; San Jose 1 Philadelphia 4,

Surya Bonaly, the five-times champion, is only a reserve for the French teem hosting the European Championships in Peris later this month. Not even a surprise ninth successive French tide surprise ninth successive French tride in Amiens in December, only seven months after an Achilles tendon operation, was enough to convince the French selectors that Bonaly was ready for international competition. The two French places in the women's event at Bercy in Paris are Vanessa Gusmeroli and Laetitia Hubert, with Bonaly as a

SKINING WOMEN'S ALPHE WORLD CUP GIANT SLALOM WOMEN'S ALPHE WORLD CUP GIANT SLALOM (Marrhor, Slovening: 1 S Parazana) (IV) 2min 34,745c (first um 1:19,40)secord um 1:15,37; 2= A Washer (Aut) 2:34,82 (1:19,1971:15,63), Compagnor (IV) 2:34,82 (1:18,9971:15,83); 4

Snooker CHARGO NETURIA CHARTY CHALLENGE (Birmingham) Pirat round: J Parrott (Eng) bt J whee (Eng) 5-2. Quarter-duals: P Endon (Eng) bt is Doney (M) 5-2. A McManus (Sco) bt J Higgins (Sco) 5-4. Table tennis

Jean-Philippe Gatien, the former world champion, has pulled out of the English Table Tennis Open, starting at Ket-tering next Tuesday. Gatien is resting prior to an intense period of training in France to prepare for the World Championships next April in Man-chester. His seeded place will be taken by the world No 18, Patrick Chilla.

MailVal Washington, the beaten Amer-loan finalist at Wimbledon last summer, has pulled out of next week's New Zealand Open because of a recurring back problem. QATAR OPEN TOLROLABENT (Doba) Men's sko-gles, quarter-finale: S Brughera (Sp) bt. P Kor-da (22 Ren) 6-1 2-6 6-3: H Aren (Men' bt M. Larson (Swell 7-6 7-6:) County (US) by T Museur (Ant) 6-3 7-5: T Herman (GB) bt. M. Gustafsson (Swell 6-3 7-5:

6-3 7-5.

AUSTRALIAN HARDCOURT CHAMPIONSHIP (Molebules, Aust Manifes, aust Men's singles, quarter-fanilis; M Thismorn (Swe) Mt A Chericago (Rust 6-2 6-4; 4-10ad Woodhindge (Australia) best 5-Alexa O'Brien rius) 6-4 6-4; 1 Tasango (List ix J Barkman (Swe) 6-1 6-7 7-6; 5 Diaper (Aus) bit Nicosa (Swe) 6-4 7-5. (Skrak) 6-4 7-5.

GOLD COAST WOMER'S LASSIC (Hope Island, Ami) Singles, quarter-finals: E Licouteum (Rus) It R McQuiter 3-6 6-3 7-5; A Sugjerna Liacon) It S Appelmans: (Bo) 6-2 3-6 7-6; A-G Sidot (Fr) It A Curtson (Swe) 6-2 6-2.

NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC WOMEN'S TOURNA-MENTE (Auckland) Singles, seen-finele: J Wesner (Aut) in E Wegner (Seri 6-2 8-1; M Manusia (Aut) T Tensugen (Ilmi) 3-6 6-3 6-3. HOPMAN CUP (Perit) Group B: Switzerland it Germany 3-0. (Swift names first) Singles-M Hings it P Begarov 6-1 6-1; M Rosest int B Karbacher 7-6 7-6. (Doubles) Rosest and Hings it Karbacher & Begarov 7-5 6-1. South African in Romana 2-1 (South African names first) Singlese A Costor lost for 1 Spirice 7-5 4-6 1-6; W Fernels in A Volnea 7-6 7-6. (Dou-bles): Ferners and Costor lost for and Sur-les 4-8 6-1 6-4. South African meet United States in the final. TODAY'S

NUMBER

The consecutive years that the American Pete Sampras has won the international Tennis Federation's world champion award. Germany's Seffi Graf took the women's award for a record seventh time, overtaking Martina Navratilova's six

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1.46pm: England go into bat after Zimbabwe make 249 for 7 in their allotted 50 overs



4.14pm: England are all out for 118 in 30 overs. Five of their batsmen make ducks

Just when we thought England couldn't do any worse

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Harare

Zimbabwe 249-7 England 118 Zimbabwe win by 131 runs

There are, it seems, few avenues, other than winning a game, that this England team will not explore when they travel. This was their 12th successive limited-overs' loss overseas to Testplaying countries.

However, yesterday's capitulation, their third in a row to Zimbabwe, was one of their least culpable. The demise was expertly hastened by the free range chicken farmer, Eddo Brandes, who took his country's first hat-trick, finishing the match with 5 for 28.

thr

late

Off

month England have played some of the most imaginatively bereft cricket on the planet. suitable cricketers to choose are 25 motivated and thinking game not in New Zealand."

Strangely these are attributes their England counterparts seem to lack. Something England's attempts in the field neatly exemplified as Zimbab-we rattled up 249 for 7 off their 50 overs, as Alistair Campbell with an unbeaten 80, and Grant Flower with 62, took toll of some wayward bowling.

Such poor attention to basics sionaries rather than conprefer football.

On the evidence of the past some of David Lloyd's utter-nonth England have played ances on this tour, of which the more memorable have nearly al-Zimbabwe may only have 25 The coach's latest offering being that: "The second leg of their national side from, but they this tour starts with this last

has turned England into misquerors. A role that was well erved by a 3-0 whitewash in what is this country's most popular form of cricket. A whitewash that has done wonders for the interest levels of the black African population, who tend to

course, unintended, though you begin to wonder after hearing ways come back to haunt him.

well. "There were things in Zimbabwe's play that were not

wicket-taking length that forced The philanthropy is, of the batsman to play. It was a length not often matched by England's bowlers - though Mullally again bowled well - after Mike Atherton had won the toss and put Zimbabwe in.

Bustling in up the slope from the City End, Brandes had the A day later he had to admit leg-side in his second over. "It viving so early on, is to miss.

the second leg had not started was a pretty bad ball," he admitted, "but Knight seemed to jump at it and get a touch."

He wasn't the only one jump-Brandes was certainly one of ing as John Crawley went Ibw them, and he got much more first ball of Brandes' next over from the conditions than any of after missing a straight one that he tried to work to leg. It England's bowlers. Swinging the ball away as well as moving it occasionally off the pitch, Brandes bowled a full was one of five ducks - three of them first ball - that littered the

England scorecard. During the Test matches the 33-year-old Brandes had bowled well without reward. But if he was frustrated by it his next ball was worth all the near misses when a perfectly pitched outswinger found the edge of Nasser Hussain's bat. A delivery described by the bowler as "a

It was a great moment for Brandes who celebrated only the 10th hat-trick in one-day internationals with a barrelchested chicken strut down the pitch towards Andy Flower. His keeper had just managed to pull off an extraordinary diving catch in front of Campbell at first slip, the best of five safely pouched catches, including those of Atherton and Alec

Brandes took four England wickets in Albury, when Zimbabwe beat England in a 1991/92 World Cup qualifier. On that occasion, the loss was shrugged off as an aberration. Now it as become a serious habit first of his hat-trick victims. magnificent jaffa" and one that and one that John Emburey, the Nick Knight, caught down the a batsman's only real hope of surbecome difficult to shake off. As

if to emphasise the point, this was Zimbabwe's 10th one-day win out of 65, five of those wins

coming against England.
England have simply been outwitted and outclassed by a side just learning to walk, a disappointment that Atherton denied he would run away from by resigning the captaincy. There are two options for me and the team," he said. "To give up or to fight on. I don't see any

point in either of us giving up. It was a point echoed by Lloyd, who backed Atherton, saying he was. "a very caring captain who looked after his team and who deserved the support of everyone".

England's malaise is not Atherton's fault, though he and his men have not enjoyed touring this country which, apart from being put firmly on the cricketing map, has raised serious questions over the standards and resilience of English

cricket at all levels. It is a moribund state of affairs that can be firmly attributed to a system which breeds predictable and uncompetitive players in an age when flair and vitality, have usurped the traditional havens offered by play-

ing percentages. The panacea is not an easy one unless you are prepared to take the straightforward but contentious advice yelled by a drunken reveller after Zimbabwe's crushing victory. "Send England home," he bellowed, "and bring out the wives."

The England vice-captain Nasser Hussain starts the long walk back to the pavilion after being caught off the first ball he faced yesterday Harare scoreboard

England's lowest one-day totals

93 v Australia (Headingley) 1975 122 v Pakisten (Lahore) - 1978

94 v Australia (Headingley) 1979 125 v West Indies (Arnos Vale) 1981

114 v West Indies (Bridgetown) 1986 125 v Zimbabwe (Albury) 1992

115 v South Africa (East London) 1996 127 v N Zealand (Christenurch) 1983

'We have to rethink our one-day strategy

about England's chances of a Test ter side in both of these and givseries victory in New Zealand, de- en a better run with the rain spite yesterday's humiliation by Zimbabwe.

"Zimbabwe played very well." very positively and Eddo Brandes bowled a magic spell with the new ball. When you lose three wickets for 20 runs you are struggling to win the match. We played poorly in the one-day internationals and have to rethink our strategy

The England captain, Mike there. But in the Test matches I Atherton, remained defiant firmly believe we were the bet-

Atherton refused to be drawn on his future as captain, saving Atherton said. "They batted well, only he "would see what happens" when his contract runs out at the end of the winter. But he insisted that he - and the rest of the side – were confident about the New Zealand leg of the tour. "We have got to have confi-

dence in ourselves and we are

been disappointing to lose here and disappointing to lose 3-0 but we are looking forward to New Zealand, to work hard and im-

prove over there. "No doubt people back home will be disappointed and upset and I am disappointed and upset - as are the players, but we are looking forward to getting

it right in New Zealand." The former England captain Bob Willis was scathing about England against Zimbabwe and New Zealand. Zimbabwe are at the bottom of the ladder and England are quickly replacing them. We are fast going down the

cricketing plughole here." The England coach David Lloyd - who also refused to be drawn about his future - stressed the difference between one-day and Test matches, and denied that England had ever underes-

DOWN

Join search in Spain (7) The right heel? (4, 2, 9) Prickly plant one left

with former partner (4)

Abridge others' works.

appending brief note (7) A cry following wife's

abject failure (7) Old poet with nothing

against primitive urges

Take home the wrong

baby? (7. 3, 5) Used to swim in river

once a week then? (7)

13 Scope to have medical

establishment over-

turned on appeal (5)

14 Quick way to get in fod-

17 Ill-gotten gains (4, 3) 18 Modern fashions in

physical units (7)

and knight (7)

Citadel in Royal Mile

perhaps held by king

20 Horse performing re-markably in the classics?

still confident of doing well in New Zealand," he said. "It has getting pretty desperate now," he have never ever said this was a getting pretty desperate now," he have never ever said this was a said. "This was the watermark for knock-over outfit," he said. "They played very good, very forceful cricket throughout this one-day series and we perhaps were not up to it."

"We will regroup and come again with confidence. We will not be low when we move on to New Zealand. The players know they have not played to their maximum and they have a great challenge in New Zealand."

Wilkinson waits for job offer from FA

Football

RUPERT METCALF

After all the talk of the Football Association turning to some distinguished foreign coaching guru in its search for its first technical director, it seems that the job is to be given to a Yorkshireman whose main experience of international football was with the England semi-

professional team. Howard Wilkinson, the former manager of Leeds United (and, among other teams, Boston United and the England non-League XI) is expected to be given the new post of FA technical director on Monday. The 53-year-old-native of Sheffield has been tipped for the job for some weeks, after potential overseas candidates such as Arsène Wenger took alternative

employment. The technical director will have wide responsibilities - he will oversee the nurturing of talent from the grass roots up-wards and will work closely with the England coach, Glenn Hoddle. Wilkinson reportedly turned down the post last year, when he chose to battle on as Leeds manager. Now he is available after leaving Elland Road in September - and he recently turned down an approach from Manchester City. Hoddle's predecessor as England coach, Terry Venables,

turned down an approach to

coach Turkey last year, it was revealed yesterday when he arrived in Sydney to take charge

of the Australian national team. "I was close to [accepting one job offer] that was quite interesting," Venables said, "but I had a personal problem... if it had been under other circumstances, maybe it would have been different." He subsequently admitted that offer had come from Turkey, and that he had been given other prestigious opportunities. He will lead Australia for the first time later this month in a four-nation tournament involving Norway, New

Zealand and South Korea. The Aston Villa manager, Brian Little, will not be taking any disciplinary action against his striker Savo Milosevic for allegedly spitting at David Beck-ham in Wednesday's match at Manchester United. Little's assistant, Allan Evans, has studied television pictures of the incident and told him there was no case to answer. "Allan has said to me that, in his opinion, there is noth-

ing untoward there." Little said. Bryan Rohson, the Middlesbrough player-manager who is 40 next week, has said he does not want to play again - despite managing 90 minutes against Arsenal on Wednesday. "My sci-atica played me up." Robson said vesterday.

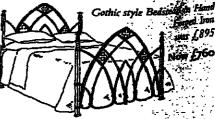
Julian Dicks has signed a new three-and-a-half year contract with West Ham, where his current deal expires this summer.

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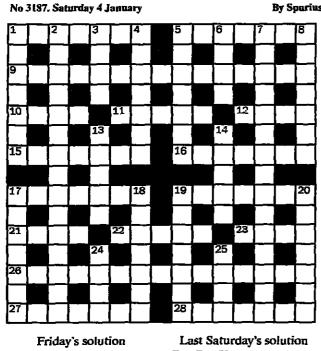


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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD By Sparius



Scale badly affecting sluices (7) Bowl with endlessly attractive engraving (7) Qualification held by chemistry teacher, maybe? (6, 2, 7)

Letter perversely written in patois (4) Condescend to put in a concession (5)

Pay for entertainment provided by daughter (4) 15 Film-maker on cardinal's staff (7)

16 Attempt to comprehend old work by Aeschylus (7) Post Office or other communications centre (7) 19 Sauce boat in residence at

university (7) Solid found in 8 or 27? 22 Material used for part of

border (5) Expensive token needed for phone? (4) 26 Biological defoliant formerly used in Egypt (6, 2,

27 Music suppliers in Rye sold out (7) 28 Paginates book (7)

duduo; B & P Brown, Chipping,

24 Cross in form of amulet 25 Swindle that is American? (4)

der (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 1918. The Indicandent I Consul Saturday Copy William I. 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: David Jones, London E5; James Munday, Braes of Gartly; S Barnes, York; Dana Steen, Llandon Landon E5;

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